

# Background to the British Civil Wars

## Card Sorting Activity

### Fairies, Witches and Bad Smells: What did people believe in the 1600s?

We know that people dressed differently from us in the 1600s but did they think differently too?

Fashions in clothing change over time and beliefs and ideas change as well.

It doesn't mean that everyone believed the same things, just that there were popular beliefs that determined many aspects of how people lived.

Can you decide which of these ideas or beliefs were widely held, which caused arguments, and which weren't really believed by anyone?

### Instructions

Cut out the headings and statements on the next page.

For each statement, decide whether you think that in the 1600s it was:

- Widely believed (nearly everyone believed this)
- Rarely believed (hardly anyone believed this)
- Argued about (some people believe this, but others didn't)

Place the statement under the correct heading.

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Widely believed	Rarely believed
<b>Argued about</b>	
Metal can be turned into gold	Smoking is good for you
Fairies exist and they are evil	Husbands should be in control of their wives
There are four liquids in your body, blood, phlegm, black bile and yellow bile. These are called humours. To stay healthy these must be balanced	The King has been placed on the throne by God
The earth is flat	Catholics should have equal rights
There is no need to teach women to read and write	Witches have magical powers
Bad smells carry diseases	God speaks to us in dreams
The King should be able to do whatever he likes	Women are as clever as men
Children must be regularly beaten	God makes good and bad things happen
Illnesses can be cured with herbs	Animals should be treated kindly
Everyone should have the right to vote	The church should look after poor people
We need priests to talk to God for us	The earth moves around the sun

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