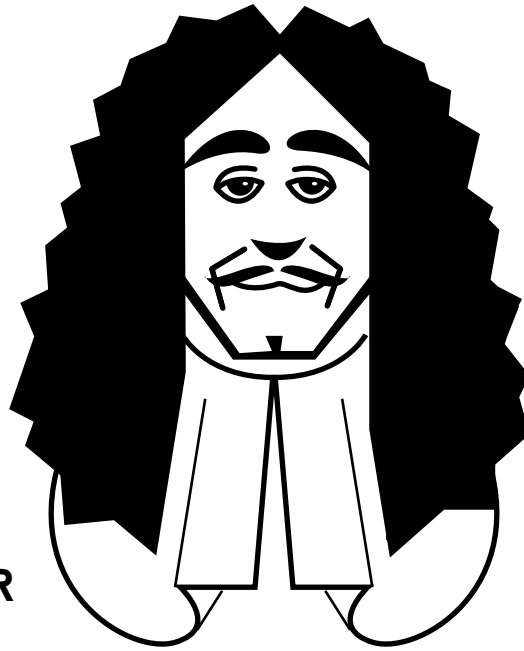


Your student has been instructed to give at least three points under both of the columns in this chart, describing Charles II's character and events during his reign. They also were told to provide a summary statement in each column.



CHARACTER

- Like his father, Charles I, Charles II retained a belief in the divine rights of a ruler (the ability to rule without restraint or questioning by the people).
- Before taking the throne, Charles promised to pardon those who had executed his father and led the Commonwealth. He broke this promise by hunting down and executing many of those who had executed his father.
- He also promised to allow freedom of worship, but instead he revoked Puritan morality laws and did not oppose those who wished to bring England back to the Roman Catholic Church. He persecuted anyone who did not worship as he commanded.
- In secret liaisons with the French, he betrayed the Triple Alliance (an agreement between Britain, Holland, and Sweden to keep the King of France from gaining more territory and power), seeking to obtain money for his own pleasure.
- Overall, from his actions, Charles II seems clever but also arrogant, selfish, deceitful, and pleasure-loving. He was initially regarded as the Merry Monarch, but in time his true character was revealed.

REIGN

- During the war with the Dutch, London was attacked for the first and only time in England's history. This was the result of Charles spending money on himself rather than attending to the needs of his navy.
- The plague raged in London for a full year.
- A terrible fire destroyed nearly a third of London and left over 200,000 homeless.
- Like his father, he focused on consolidating and then aggrandizing his power.
- He tightened his power over his colonial holdings in the following ways:
 - In Massachusetts, he punished the people for not helping his messengers find his father's murderers, for resisting his Navigation Acts, for coining their own money and not making officials swear allegiance to the throne of England, and for refusing to allow the Church of England to be established in their colony.
 - He made the Massachusetts colony a crown colony, sent them a royal governor, and determined to consolidate all of New England into one large colony that would answer to his leadership.
- Overall, Charles seemed to act more in order to advance his own interests than to promote the welfare of the people. It might be argued that his reign was not blessed by God.