

8. The Execution of Charles I



The Execution of Charles I (1649), from the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, shows Charles I being executed outside the Banqueting House in London. Look at the image [here](#), and see which of the following features you can locate.

Charles I with his head chopped off. It was removed in one clean blow.

The executioner and his assistant actually wore masks, so that no one could take revenge on them.

Execution takes place outside of Banqueting House, the grandest building in the Palace of Westminster.

It was a very cold day, and Charles insisted on wearing a thick undershirt to keep warm. If he was seen shivering, he said, people would assume that he was scared.

A man with his leg missing—a former soldier from the English Civil War—there to remind us that the king drove the country to war.

People dipping their handkerchiefs in Charles I's blood, as they still believed he was appointed by God, and therefore his blood would have healing powers.

A lady faints at the sight of her King being executed. She is shocked by what she has seen—very few people could really believe that the King, appointed by God, had been killed by his own Parliament.