

## THE BATTLE OF BRENTFORD

The battle took place on 12 November 1642. The King's army advanced from the west (see map below). The parliamentarians put-up a barricade at Brentford Bridge (see painting) and were attacked and defeated by the King's men. They then overcame a second barricade manned by more parliamentary foot soldiers. Some of the defeated soldiers ran back to London, others fled into the Thames and were drowned.



Look at the painting above and use the other information on this sheet to answer the questions below.

1. Is the painting an example of primary evidence (painted at the time), or secondary evidence?

2. Do you think that this makes the reconstruction completely accurate? (If not why not?) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Where is the attack by the King's soldiers coming from...The west or the east? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What do we know about the construction of the bridge, does the bridge in the painting seem accurate? If not why not? \_\_\_\_\_

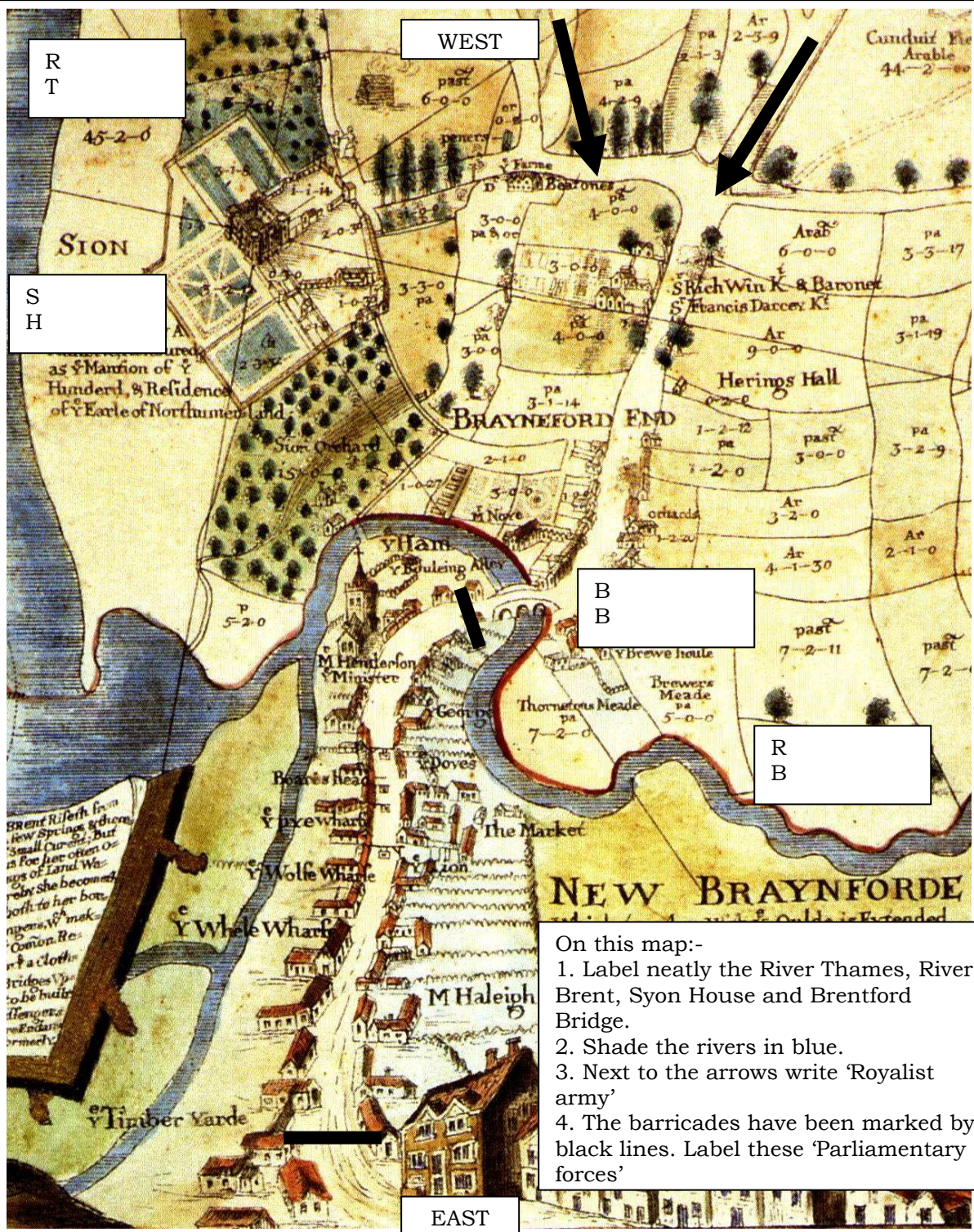
5. Describe what weaponry and armour can be seen in the painting. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Look at the map opposite. Why do you think it was important for the parliamentary troops to defend (hold) the bridge?

7. What must it have been like to live in the house by the bridge on the morning of the battle?



Brentford, in 1642, was a small but prosperous market town consisting of one main street, lined with houses and shops. It had a church, St Lawrence's, on the south side of the road. Syon House was close by, and there were fields to the west, north and east of the town. We know that there was a bridge over the River Brent, a tributary of the Thames. The bridge had 3 arches and was made of stone. There would previously have been a 'ford' or crossing point here.



On this map:-  
 1. Label neatly the River Thames, River Brent, Syon House and Brentford Bridge.  
 2. Shade the rivers in blue.  
 3. Next to the arrows write 'Royalist army'  
 4. The barricades have been marked by black lines. Label these 'Parliamentary forces'