

Parliament

Before there was a British Parliament

The Monarch

- had nobles as advisers
- demanded taxes
- made laws

Orders from the monarch were sent to the sheriff in each shire (local area).

The Sheriff

The sheriff carried out all royal commands. He collected the taxes and other money owed to the monarch and made sure everybody obeyed the monarch's laws.

The People

The people had no say in what the laws would be or how the taxes would be spent.

The modern British Parliament (the Westminster system)

Parliament makes the rules or laws by which the people of Great Britain are governed. Parliament, in Britain, consists of the monarch (king or queen), the House of Lords (lords and bishops) and the House of Commons (Members of Parliament who are voted for by the people).

To make a new law

A Minister takes it to the House of Commons.

House of Lords

The lords

- discuss the proposed law or Bill
- debate and make changes
- pass it back to the House of Commons
- agree that the Bill should be a law.

They do this up to three times so that each house gets a chance to make changes.

House of Commons

The Members of Parliament

- discuss the proposed law or Bill
- debate and make changes
- agree that the Bill should be a law
- pass it to the House of Lords.

The Parliament asks the monarch to sign the Bill.

The Monarch

- acts as head of state
- only enters Parliament to open each session

The monarch signs the Bill and when this is done it becomes

a new law!