What kind of king was Charles I?

Case study 1: Monarchs before Charles I

The two rulers who came before Charles I were Elizabeth I (1558-1603) and James I (1603-25). Studying these two rulers can help us to see whether Charles I ruled in a similar or different way. What do the sources tell us about how Elizabeth and James ruled?



Great Seal of Elizabeth I



Great Seal of James I



Speech by James I to Parliament, 1609