

Queen Elizabeth II and the British Monarchy

1. How much do you know about The Queen and the Monarchy of the United Kingdom? Try to answer the questions.

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|---|---|
| a. When was Queen Elizabeth II crowned? | g. What is the British National Anthem called? |
| b. Who is The Queen married to and what is his title? | h. What are the Crown Jewels? |
| c. Who are her children and grandchildren? | i. What is the Commonwealth? |
| d. What are her Official Residences? | j. How is succession to the throne decided and who is next in line to the throne? |
| e. What is The Queen's role as Monarch? | k. What is Queen Elizabeth's full name and what is her official title? |
| f. What are the Union Jack and the Royal Standard? | l. Why does The Queen have two birthdays? |

2. Match the questions in 1. with the answers below. The first one has been done for you.

Q: *What is Queen Elizabeth's full name and what is her official title?*

A: Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor. She belongs to Britain's Royal House (Family) of Windsor. Her official title is: "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith."

Q:

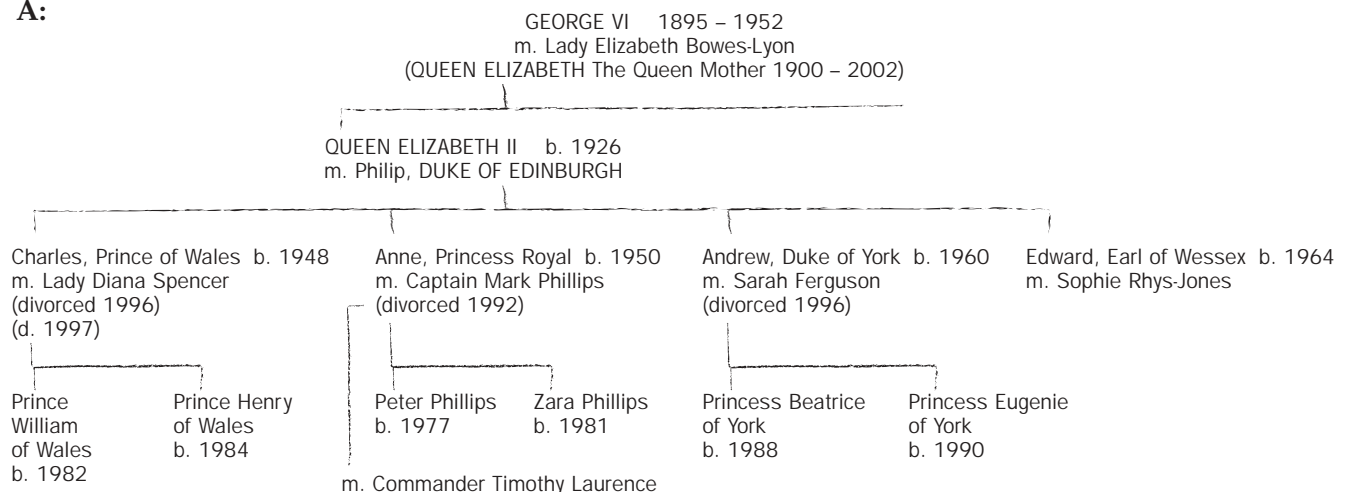
A: This is an old tradition, which has to do with the British weather! It's no fun to celebrate your birthday on a cold, rainy day, and there is less chance of that in June! So no matter when the Monarch's birthday actually is, the official birthday is celebrated on the third Saturday of June each year in a ceremony known as 'Trooping the Colour'. The Queen was actually born on April 21, 1926 in London.

Q:

A: Buckingham Palace in London, Windsor Castle in Berkshire and the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, Scotland. She also has private residences at Sandringham in Norfolk and Balmoral Castle in Scotland.

Q:

A:



Queen Elizabeth II and the British Monarchy

Q: _____

A: The Queen was married to Philip Mountbatten, the son of Prince and Princess Andrew of Greece, on November 20, 1947 in Westminster Abbey in London. Both Elizabeth and Philip are great-great grandchildren of Queen Victoria. The Queen's husband is known as Prince Philip, not King Philip, because in the British monarchy the husband of a female monarch does not have any recognized special status, rank, or privileges. The wife of a male monarch, however, does take on the title of Queen.

Q: _____

A: The Queen's coronation was on June 2, 1953 in Westminster Abbey in London. She ascended the British throne some months before on February 6, 1952, following the death of her father, King George VI. She is the world's second longest reigning monarch.

Q: _____

A: Succession is largely through the male bloodline, with the eldest son of a monarch having precedence in becoming King. Daughters of the monarch may become Queen in the absence of a male heir. If there are no sons and daughters to inherit the throne when the monarch dies, succession passes to the family of the monarch's oldest brother and proceeds in the same manner.

A rule dating back to the eighteenth century states that anyone marrying a Catholic is excluded from the line of succession. The following list is the current order of succession to the throne: 1. Prince Charles 2. Prince William 3. Prince Henry 4. Prince Andrew 5. Princess Beatrice 6. Princess Eugenie 7. Prince Edward 8. Princess Anne 9. Peter Phillips 10. Zara Phillips.

Q: _____

A: As well as acting as a focus for national unity, The Queen has many constitutional roles as Head of State. She is the supreme power in the legislature (Parliament), the executive (the government), and the judiciary (law). In reality, however, she does not govern at all, but simply acts on the advice of government ministers - the last time a monarch refused to pass a new law was over two hundred years ago. She meets with the Prime Minister every week so she can be kept fully informed of all political developments. The Queen is also the head of the Church of England and is the Commander in Chief of the armed forces. The Queen is required to fulfill a variety of ceremonial functions, such as opening each new session of parliament, and is patron of over 700 organisations. She has about 300 engagements each year.

Q: _____

A: The Commonwealth consists of a number of states that formerly belonged to the British Empire. The Commonwealth includes Australia, Canada and New Zealand and a number of smaller states such as Jamaica, the Bahamas and Fiji. Queen Elizabeth II is Head of the Commonwealth and is also Head of State of seventeen countries within the Commonwealth.

Q: _____

A: The Crown Jewels have been used by English kings and queens for many centuries and include regalia (items used at coronation), crowns, robes and medals. The original collection has been housed in the Tower of London since 1303, following a theft from Westminster Abbey. The collection is open to the public.

Queen Elizabeth II and the British Monarchy

Q: _____

A: The words and tune of the patriotic song *God Save The King* are anonymous, and date back to the seventeenth century. In September 1745, King George I was defeated in a battle near Edinburgh and when the news reached London, the band at the Theatre Royal played *God Save The King* in support of the King. It was a tremendous success and was repeated nightly thereafter with the practice soon spreading to other theatres. The first verse of the National Anthem is:

*God save our gracious Queen,
 Long live our noble Queen,
 God save the Queen.
 Send her victorious,
 Happy and glorious,
 Long to reign over us,
 God save the Queen.*

Q: _____

A: The Union Jack is the national flag of the United Kingdom and it is so called because it embodies the emblems of all the countries of the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland), united under one Sovereign. The Royal Standard is flown wherever The Queen is in residence, on The Queen's car on official journeys and on her aircraft and boats. The Royal Standard is never flown at half-mast, as the Sovereign never dies - the new Monarch immediately succeeds his or her predecessor.

3. Who is the head of state of your country? How long has he/she been in power? How does he/she become head of state? What is his/her role as head of state? How much power does he/she have? What do you know about him/her and his/her family?

4. Find twelve more words or expressions connected with Queen Elizabeth II and the British Monarchy. All the words/expressions are in the reading text. The words go ↓, → and ↘.

C	Q	W	E	V	R	A	G	T	Y	L	I	P	K
O	C	G	W	B	U	C	K	I	N	G	H	A	M
M	E	R	Y	G	M	N	K	E	S	W	A	L	B
M	F	U	O	Z	B	C	I	X	Z	D	A	A	R
O	H	L	C	W	F	A	V	O	C	X	Y	C	N
N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	A	N	T	H	E	M
W	Q	T	T	C	R	J	A	M	Y	J	R	A	N
E	D	W	H	D	Y	O	E	J	O	D	A	U	P
A	C	I	R	E	I	G	N	W	H	R	Y	C	H
L	B	L	O	P	H	Q	K	A	E	N	A	M	K
T	E	L	N	F	G	H	U	D	T	L	I	L	R
H	U	I	E	A	U	J	S	W	R	I	S	M	S
A	L	A	T	V	K	W	I	N	D	S	O	R	O
G	O	M	B	P	A	R	L	I	A	M	E	N	T

Teacher's Notes

Task

- To find out about Queen Elizabeth II and the British Monarchy by reading a text.
- To discuss the head of state of the student's own country.
- To complete a wordsearch, finding vocabulary from the text.

Preparation

Make one copy of worksheets A, B and C for each student.

Procedure

- Tell the students that April 21 is Queen Elizabeth's birthday. Elicit a few facts about The Queen.
- Give each student a copy of worksheets A, B and C and ask them, in pairs or small groups, to discuss the questions in 1. The students report their suggestions to the class.
- Ask the students to read the text to find the answers to the questions and match the questions to the appropriate sections of text as they do so. This can be done as a collective effort with the students working in pairs or small groups.

(Alternatively, the students could work in pairs, one with sheet A and the other with sheet B, so they have to ask and answer each other's questions to complete the task. Allow them both to see the questions.)

- Check the answers with the whole class and ask further questions to check comprehension and to encourage more detailed reading. For example,

How much power does The Queen actually have? What's the connection between The Queen and the Church of England? Where are the Crown Jewels? When is the Royal Standard flown?

(Alternatively, have the students ask each other questions: divide them into teams and allocate each team a section of text to prepare questions on.)

- Ask the students to discuss the questions in 3. Students then report to the class anything interesting from their discussions.
- Ask the students to do the wordsearch. All the words can be found in the text. This can be done individually, in pairs or groups, or can be set for homework.

Follow up

The students could prepare a poster or a presentation about their country's head of state.

Websites

For more information about The Queen and the British Monarchy, visit the following sites:

- www.royalty.nu/worldlinks.html
- www.royal.gov.uk/

Answers

Worksheet A Ex 2 (order of questions):
k, l, d, c, b, a, j, e, i, h, g, f

Worksheet C Wordsearch (words used):
Commonwealth, Balmoral, National Anthem, reign, Windsor, parliament, Union Jack, coronation, William, throne, Buckingham, palace.

