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The Queen

The Life and Times of

Elizabeth II



Graded reader
with activities



free Audiobook



The Queen

The Life and Times of Elizabeth II

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Member of CISQ Federation



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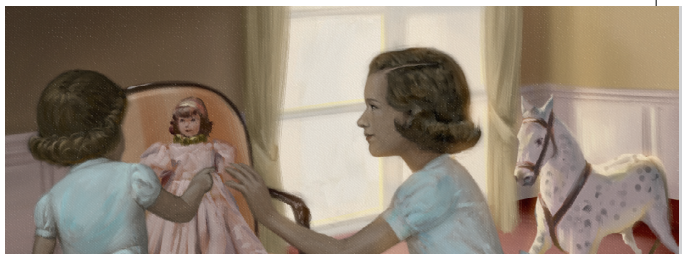
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A2 KEY This icon indicates A2 KEY-style activities

T: GRADE 3-4 This icon indicates Trinity-style activities

n. track  THE STORY IS FULLY RECORDED.

The House of Windsor

The history of British monarchs¹ goes back over a thousand years. There have been many British Royal Families,² like the Norman kings, the Tudors and the Stuarts. For a long time, there were different kings, queens and princes³ in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. After several wars and treaties,⁴ these countries came together to make the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Some kings and queens are remembered in British history as great

monarchs, but they weren't always good people. King Henry VIII (1491-1547) is famous for his determination,⁵ but he ruled with a strong hand and he was often cruel. People at the time were very afraid of him. Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603) is also very famous. She was a strong and clever woman, and under her the country became stronger too.

During the time of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, kings and queens could do almost



King Henry VIII

1. **monarch** : a king or queen.
2. **royal family** : the family of a king or queen.
3. **prince** : the son of a king or queen.
4. **treaty** : (here) when two countries agree to join or work together.
5. **determination** : the ability to keep doing something difficult.

anything, and nobody could stop them. However, over the centuries, parliaments⁶ became much stronger. Between 1642 and 1651, the English Parliament fought⁷ a long war against the monarch and won. After that, British monarchs needed to listen to Parliament. Today, the monarch is the head of state⁸ of the UK, but he or she doesn't rule⁹ the country: that is the job of Parliament.



Queen Elizabeth I

In the past, people in different royal families usually got married to each other, so kings and queens had family members all over Europe. When George V became the king of the UK in 1910, his cousin was the king of Russia, and another cousin was the king of Germany. George V's family name was German too, and it was very long: it was the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. The Royal Family had this name because George V's grandmother, Queen Victoria, got married to a German prince.

When Britain fought against Germany during World War I (1914-1918), many people in the UK weren't happy that their monarch had a German family name. In 1917, George V decided to change this name, but it was difficult to choose a new one. The Royal Family thought

-
6. **parliament** : a group of people who meet to decide the rules in a country.
 7. **fought** : past tense of the verb *fight*; be in a war or be against other people.
 8. **head of state** : a country's official leader.
 9. **rule** : decide what happens in a country.



King George V

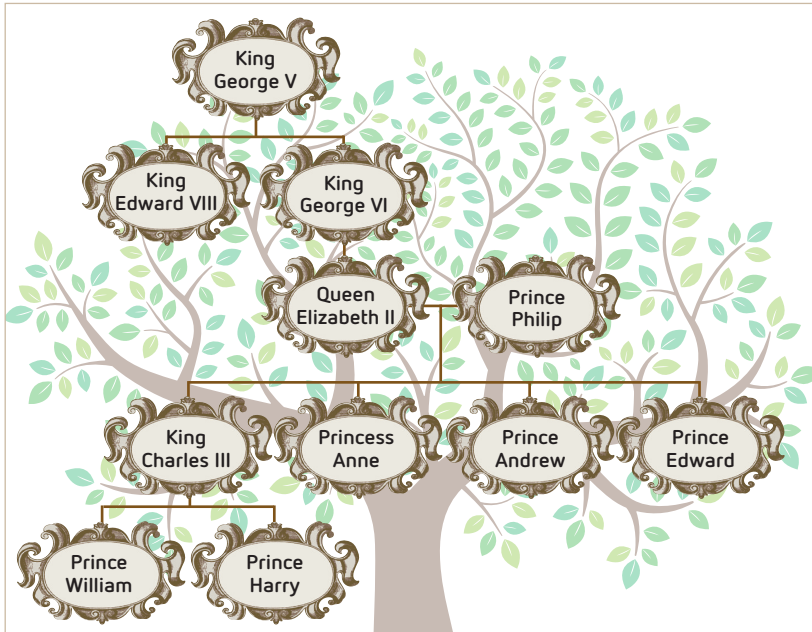
about famous names from British history like York, Lancaster and Plantagenet – and the royals even discussed the Italian name d’Este. In the end, George V decided to call his family the House of Windsor because the name Windsor sounded very British, and the most important royal castle in England was Windsor Castle.

In the years after World War I and World War II, many European countries decided that they didn’t want a monarch any more, but Queen Elizabeth and other members of the House of Windsor worked hard to change with the times. As a result, most people in the UK are happy with the Royal Family, and the royals are also popular with many people around the world.

Queen Elizabeth II was the fourth monarch in the House of Windsor. She was the most popular and important queen in British history. After Queen Elizabeth II died, her oldest son, Prince Charles, became King Charles III, the fifth Windsor monarch.



King Charles III



Comprehension check

- 1 Read the sentences and answer (T) True or (F) False, according to the text. Change one word to correct the false sentences.

	T	F
1 Henry VIII was a kind king.	☐	☐
2 Elizabeth I made England a stronger country than it was before.	☐	☐
3 In the time of Elizabeth I, parliaments could do almost anything.	☐	☐
4 Today, the head of state of the UK doesn't rule the country.	☐	☐
5 George V had family members all over the world.	☐	☐
6 George V decided to change the family's Italian name.	☐	☐
7 The British Royal Family is still popular today.	☐	☐
8 Charles III is the second monarch in the House of Windsor.	☐	☐

Before you read

Vocabulary

- 1 These words are all used in Chapter 1. Match the words (1-6) to the pictures (A-F).

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 ☐ clap | 3 ☐ statue | 5 ☐ flag |
| 2 ☐ palace | 4 ☐ parade | 6 ☐ balcony |



- 2 These words are also used in Chapter 1. Use them to complete the definitions. Use a dictionary, if necessary.

servant celebrate drone politician military wedding

- A is a small robot plane.
 - Two people get married at a
 - A works for someone in a big house and looks after them.
 - When people special days, they have fun and do things like dancing and singing.
 - A is often a person in Parliament.
 - people fight in wars.
- 3 In Chapter 1, the UK has a 'jubilee': a programme of celebrations for Queen Elizabeth's 70th year as monarch. What kind of events do you think happen?



CHAPTER 1

Queen for seventy years



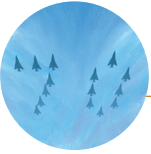
On 2nd June, 2022, thousands and thousands of people were standing in the streets and parks around Buckingham Palace, in London. The crowd watched the long balcony at the front of the palace, waiting for Queen Elizabeth II to come out. Many of them were carrying flags and pictures of the Queen. Suddenly, the big balcony doors opened, and out came a 96-year-old lady in a light blue suit and hat. The crowd cheered.¹ They clapped, and cried, 'Queen Elizabeth, Queen Elizabeth!'



track 02

Other members of the Royal Family followed the Queen as she walked out onto the balcony, then they stood around her. The Queen smiled and pointed at the sky as planes flew over the palace. The planes were very noisy, and Prince William's little son,

1. **cheer** : shout because you are excited and happy.



CHAPTER 1

Louis, put his hands over his ears. The crowd laughed, and the photographers were very happy – they had a great photo of Louis and the Queen for the next day’s newspapers.

It was the start of the Platinum² Jubilee³ Weekend: a four-day holiday to celebrate Elizabeth II’s seventy years as queen – the longest time for any monarch in British history. Over the next few days, there were concerts, parades, exhibitions and lots of other events all over the country. Many people celebrated the jubilee at one of the 16,000 special street parties around the UK. The biggest street party was in Morecambe, England. Thousands of people listened to music, and ate and drank at picnic tables all along the street. It was 2.6 kilometres from one end of the party to the other.

On the third night of the Platinum Jubilee, tens of thousands of people went to a rock concert outside Buckingham Palace. As singers and bands such as Alicia Keys and Queen played in the concert, four hundred drones with lights made pictures in the night sky above them. There was a picture of the Queen and the number 70, for the Queen’s 70th year as monarch. The drones made more unusual pictures too – like a horse, a dog, a handbag and a cup of tea – but everyone in the crowd knew what the pictures meant. The Queen loved riding horses, and the dog in the sky was the Queen’s favourite kind of dog: a corgi. Queen Elizabeth was famous for her square handbags too, and everyone knew how much she loved tea (with a little milk, and no sugar).

Queen Elizabeth was one of the most famous and most popular women in the world. People loved to read about the Queen and

-
2. **platinum** : a very expensive metal. People often give platinum gifts or jewellery to celebrate 70-year events such as marriage.
 3. **jubilee** : a programme of celebrations for an important date.





CHAPTER 1

the Royal Family in magazines and newspapers, and when there was a big royal event like the wedding of a prince, millions of people around the world watched it on TV. Today, you can still see Queen Elizabeth's head on old stamps and money, and on T-shirts, posters and mugs⁴ in millions of homes in the UK. Hundreds of buildings and streets around the world are named after her too, and there are statues of her in countries from Canada to Nigeria, and America to Australia. Writers have written many books about Queen Elizabeth II, and there have been films, TV programmes and even songs about her too.

Queen Elizabeth lived in beautiful castles and palaces. She travelled in a special royal helicopter and royal train – and for years she even had a royal ship. Servants looked after her, and she wore expensive jewellery and beautiful clothes. However, the Queen also worked very hard. Some years, she had more than four hundred different royal appointments – from meeting world leaders to opening important events, and visiting places like hospitals, schools and factories. It wasn't always an easy job, and she did it for more than seventy years.

Queen Elizabeth had lots of royal duties⁵ to do, but one of her most important jobs was meeting the British people and listening to them. During her life, many UK politicians came and went, and because they had strong opinions, people either liked or hated them. Queen Elizabeth was different: she was the head of state, but she wasn't a politician. She never gave her own opinions about things because she needed to be everybody's monarch, not the

4. **mug** :



5. **duty** : something you have to do.



Queen for seventy years



Queen of one group or another. Queen Elizabeth kept the people of the UK together, and that is why nearly everyone in the country liked her. When she visited a place, big crowds waited for hours to see her. The Queen made people happy – just by being there, smiling and saying a few words to them.

Every year at 3 p.m. on 25th December, the Queen went on TV and spoke to the country. She talked about the past year, and some problems in the UK and around the world, but her message was always about working together, understanding and helping others. And that is why millions of people stopped their Christmas celebrations for ten minutes every year, turned on the TV and watched her Christmas Speech.⁶

When Elizabeth was born, nobody expected⁷ her to be queen one day. Everyone expected her to live a quiet, comfortable life as a royal princess, and she certainly never wanted to be a monarch. Then, when she was only ten years old, an important event changed her life. So how did she become Queen Elizabeth II? What was it like to be queen, and what did she do every day? Let's find out more about one of the most famous women in British history.

6. **speech** : when one person speaks and says important things.

7. **expect** : think something will happen.

The text and *beyond*

Comprehension check

1 Match the sentence beginnings (1-7) to the right ending (a-g).

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| 1 | On June 2 nd , 2022, people stood outside Buckingham Palace and | ☐ |
| 2 | The Queen smiled and pointed as planes | ☐ |
| 3 | On the night of the Platinum Jubilee rock concert, | ☐ |
| 4 | Hundreds of places around the world | ☐ |
| 5 | Queen Elizabeth II had an interesting life, but | ☐ |
| 6 | She never gave her own opinions about politics because | ☐ |
| 7 | When Princess Elizabeth was a young girl, | ☐ |
-
- | | |
|---|---|
| a | drones made pictures in the sky |
| b | she needed to be everyone's queen |
| c | waited for the Queen to come out onto the balcony |
| d | she also worked very hard |
| e | nobody expected her to be queen one day |
| f | flew over the palace |
| g | are named after Queen Elizabeth II |

2 Complete the paragraph with the words in the box. There is one word which you do not need.

popular monarch princess duties politician
weddings meeting crowds celebrate

In 2022, there were parties, concerts and other events all over Britain to (1) Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. She was queen for longer than any other (2) in British history. Queen Elizabeth was also one of the world's most (3) and famous women. People loved to read about the Queen and watch events like royal (4) on TV. The Queen was the head of state, but she wasn't a (5) like the Prime Minister. She had lots of royal (6) to do, but one of her most important jobs was (7) people and bringing them together. Most British people loved her, and when she went anywhere, big (8) came to see her.

- 3 What do these numbers mean? Find them in Chapter 1 and write a short sentence.

- 1 96:
- 2 4:
- 3 70:
- 4 16,000:
- 5 400:

Discussion

- 4 Read the questions and discuss the answers with a partner.

- 1 Why did the crowd laugh when planes flew over Buckingham Palace?
- 2 What kinds of events were there to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee?
- 3 What can you still find in many British homes today?
- 4 What kinds of places did Queen Elizabeth often visit?
- 5 Does the writer think that Queen Elizabeth had a very easy life? Why?/Why not?
- 6 What happened every Christmas Day in the UK?

The biggest street party was in Morecambe.

One of her most important jobs was meeting people.

For one-syllable adjectives, we make **the superlative** by adding **-est/-st**.

long → **longest** *late* → **latest**

For consonant + vowel + consonant, we double **the final consonant**.

hot → **hottest**

For two-syllable adjectives ending in -y, we replace **-y** with **-iest**.

funny → **funniest**

For other two-syllable adjectives, and adjectives of three or more syllables, we use **most + adjective**.

expensive → **most expensive**

There are a few **irregular** superlative adjectives.

bad → **worst** *good* → **best** *far* → **furthest**

Grammar

5 Complete the sentences with the superlative form of the words in brackets.

- 1 Queen Elizabeth II was one of the world's
(rich) women.
- 2 She was the (popular) member of the Royal Family.
- 3 We took lots of photos at the Jubilee party, but this is the (nice) one.
- 4 One of the (good) things about being a monarch is living in a palace.
- 5 The drones in the sky were the (amazing) thing about the concert.
- 6 The (big) celebration in Britain in 2022 was the Platinum Jubilee Weekend.
- 7 St James's Park, near Buckingham Palace, is the (pretty) park in London.
- 8 The palace is one of the (interesting) places to visit in the UK.

Writing

6 Imagine you went to the Platinum Jubilee concert in London. Write a short blog or diary entry. Write about 45 words.

Mention:

- how you went to London.
- who you were with.
- what happened at the concert.
- how you felt about it.

Before you read

Vocabulary

1 These words are all used in Chapter 2. Match the words (1-10) to the right definition (a-j). Use a dictionary, if necessary.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 ☐ carriage | 6 ☐ ordinary |
| 2 ☐ abbey | 7 ☐ huge |
| 3 ☐ estate | 8 ☐ souvenir |
| 4 ☐ portrait | 9 ☐ government |
| 5 ☐ shy | 10 ☐ coronation |

- a a photograph or painting of someone
- b you buy this to remember a holiday or special event
- c nervous and not comfortable in front of others
- d a very big church
- e not unusual or very important
- f at this event, someone officially becomes the new king or queen
- g a large piece of land that someone has, such as gardens or a farm
- h the people who control a country
- i this has four wheels; horses pull it and people travelled in it in the past
- j very big

Prediction

2 Chapter 2 is about Princess Elizabeth's life when she was a young girl. In pairs, choose five or six words that you think will be in the chapter.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 ☐ toy | 6 ☐ friend |
| 2 ☐ famous | 7 ☐ internet |
| 3 ☐ dog | 8 ☐ lesson |
| 4 ☐ television | 9 ☐ castle |
| 5 ☐ jubilee | 10 ☐ poor |