

# Disclaimer

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# The Life of Queen Elizabeth II

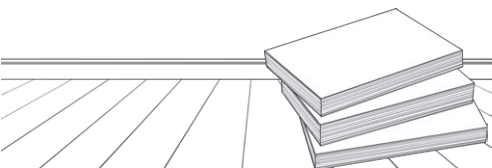


Queen Elizabeth II was the longest-serving monarch in British history; she served on the throne for 70 years.

## Early Life

When King Edward VIII stepped down, the Princess's life changed dramatically. She was no longer simply a member of the Royal Family: she was the heir to the throne. Princess Elizabeth went by the nickname Lilibet and had enjoyed a relatively carefree childhood up until this point. She had all the privileges of a princess without the impending pressures of being heir to the throne.

Along with her sister, Princess Margaret, Princess Elizabeth was educated by a team of private tutors. The Princesses were schooled in mathematics, French, music and religion - with Princess Elizabeth also receiving lessons in British history and law.

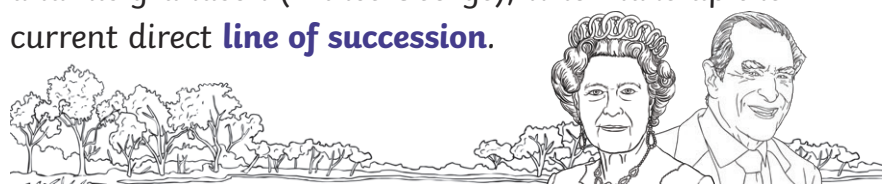


## Princess Elizabeth

Queen Elizabeth II was born Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1926. Her parents were Prince Albert, Duke of York and Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, The Duchess of York. When she was born, Princess Elizabeth was not likely to ascend to the throne. She was third in line to the throne but it was presumed that King Edward VIII would marry and that his first child would become the heir. However, a twist in fate caused Princess Elizabeth to become next in line to the throne in December 1936 when her uncle **abdicated**. King Edward VIII stood down and the crown passed to his brother. Princess Elizabeth's father became King George VI and she was next in line to the throne.

## Marriage

Princess Elizabeth first met Prince Philip in 1934. On 9<sup>th</sup> July 1947, their engagement was officially announced and their wedding took place at Westminster Abbey on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1947. Throughout their long marriage, the royal couple had a large family of four children, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. The Royal Family includes: King Charles III, his son (Prince William) and his grandson (Prince George), who make up the current direct **line of succession**.



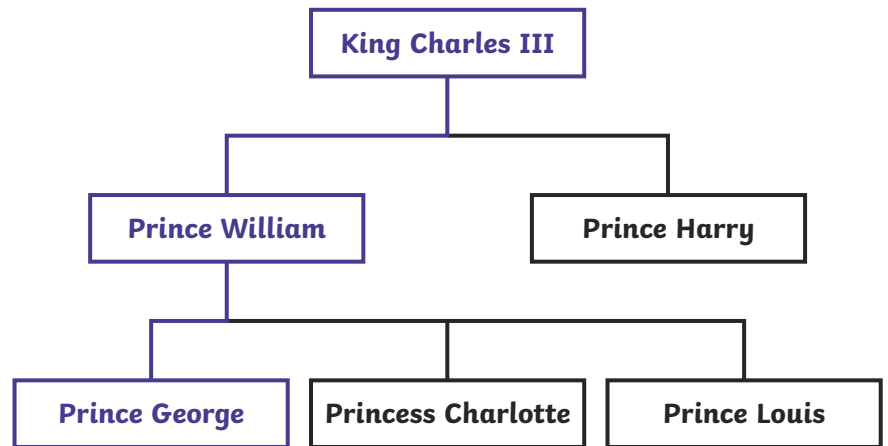
## Glossary

**abdicated:** To give up a position of royalty.

**line of succession:** The sequence of people who will take the throne in the future.

## Coronation

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952, King George VI died. From this point forward, Princess Elizabeth became Queen Elizabeth II, taking on the role and its responsibilities immediately. Her official coronation ceremony took place at Westminster Abbey on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953. The entire ceremony was broadcast on radio and on television: a breakthrough for television as it was still relatively new technology. More than 20 million people watched the historical moment, outnumbering the radio audience for the first time.



## Later Reign

Throughout her time on the throne, Queen Elizabeth II was praised by many for her calm and peaceful manner. Queen Elizabeth II met weekly with the prime minister of the UK and reigned over 15 different leaders, including Winston Churchill. Aside from her duties, Queen Elizabeth II enjoyed many hobbies and outdoor pursuits, having a particular fondness for horse racing and tending to her beloved corgis.

Sadly, Queen Elizabeth II died on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, at the age of 96. She has been succeeded by her son, Charles. She will be long remembered across the world for her extraordinary reign as well as her sense of duty and unwavering devotion to the people of the UK and the Commonwealth countries.



# Questions

1. Draw **four** lines and match each date to the correct event.

1926 ●

1947 ●

1936 ●

1953 ●

● King Edward VIII abdicated.

● Queen Elizabeth II was born.

● Queen Elizabeth II's coronation.

● Princess Elizabeth married Prince Philip.

2. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'move up'.

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3. Who was Queen Elizabeth II's uncle? Tick one.

- King George VI
- King Edward VIII
- Prince George
- Prince William

4. Fill in the missing words.

She had all the \_\_\_\_\_ of a princess, without the impending pressures of being \_\_\_\_\_ to the throne.

5. What was Queen Elizabeth II's sister called?

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6. **Queen Elizabeth II met weekly with the prime minister of the UK and reigned over 15 different leaders, including Winston Churchill.**

What does this tell you about Queen Elizabeth II?

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7. Summarise the most important points you have learnt about Queen Elizabeth II from this text.

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8. How do you think Princess Elizabeth felt when she became Queen Elizabeth II?

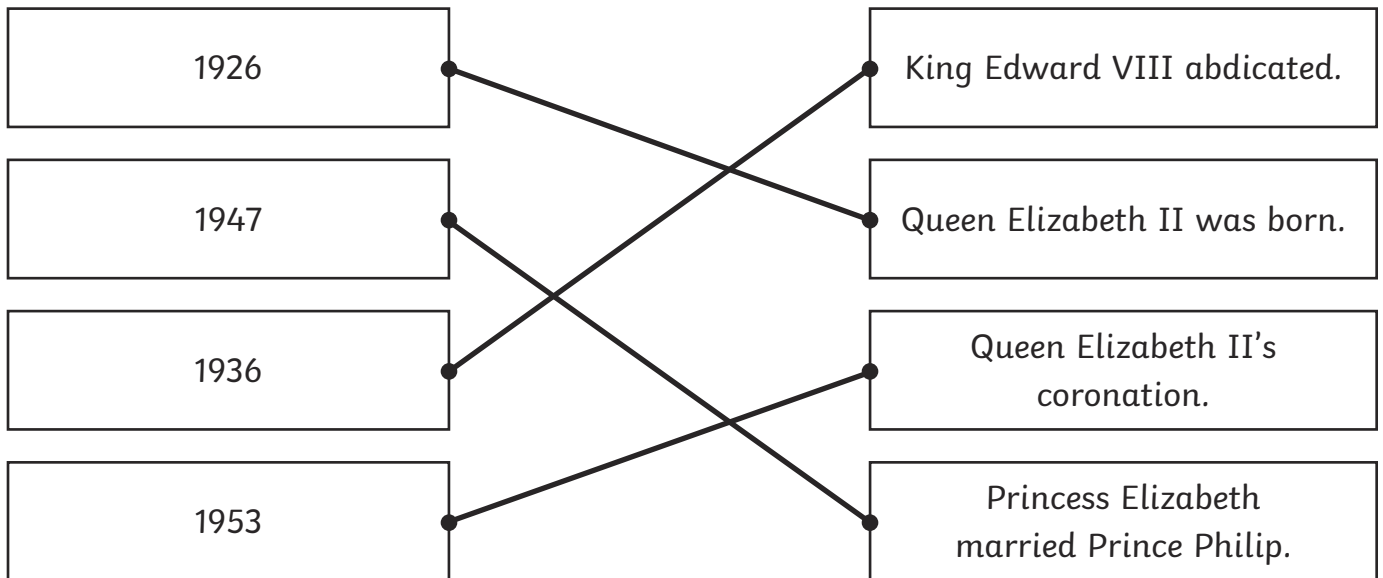
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# Answers

1. Draw **four** lines and match each date to the correct event.



2. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'move up'.

**ascend**

3. Who was Queen Elizabeth II's uncle? Tick one.

- King George VI  
 **King Edward VIII**  
 Prince George  
 Prince William

4. Fill in the missing words.

She had all the **privileges** of a princess, without the impending pressures of being **heir** to the throne.

5. What was Queen Elizabeth II's sister called?

**Queen Elizabeth II's sister was called Princess Margaret.**

6. **Queen Elizabeth II met weekly with the prime minister of the UK and reigned over 15 different leaders, including Winston Churchill.**

What does this tell you about Queen Elizabeth II?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: This passage tells me that Queen Elizabeth II was on the throne for a long time and has worked with 15 different prime ministers from different political parties. It also tells me she was interested in how the prime ministers are running the country.**

7. Summarise the most important points you have learnt about Queen Elizabeth II from this text.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The most important thing I have learnt from this text is that, when Queen Elizabeth II was born, she was not expected to rule. Her entire coronation was the first to be broadcast on television. She married Prince Philip and she had four children.**

8. How do you think Princess Elizabeth felt when she became Queen Elizabeth II?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Queen Elizabeth II would have felt a mixture of emotions, primarily nervous or anxious at the prospect of the role she was about to take but also perhaps a sense of duty and purpose to her people.**

# The Life of Queen Elizabeth II



**Queen Elizabeth II was the longest-serving monarch in British history and served on the throne for 70 years.**

## Early Life

Following the abdication, the Princess's life changed dramatically. She was no longer simply a member of the Royal Family: she was the heir to the throne. Her preparation for the position began immediately. Princess Elizabeth, who went by the nickname Lilibet, had enjoyed a relatively peaceful childhood up until this point. She had enjoyed all the privileges of a princess without the impending pressures of being heir to the throne.

Along with her sister, Princess Margaret (born in 1930), Princess Elizabeth was educated by a team of private tutors as well as her father - The King - and other experts. The Princesses were schooled in mathematics, French, music and religion - with Princess Elizabeth also receiving lessons in British history and law.

Her full title was: Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

## Princess Elizabeth

Queen Elizabeth II was born Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1926. Her parents were Prince Albert, Duke of York (who would later become King George VI) and Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, The Duchess of York. When she was born, Princess Elizabeth was not likely to ascend to the throne as the daughter of King Edward VIII's younger brother; she was third in the line of succession. It was presumed that King Edward VIII would marry and that his first child would become the heir. However, a significant twist in fate caused Princess Elizabeth to become the next in line to the throne in December 1936: her uncle, King Edward VIII, abdicated and the crown passed to his brother, who was Princess Elizabeth's father. Abdication is when a monarch chooses to give up their position and the crown transfers to the person next in line.

## Marriage

Princess Elizabeth and her future husband, Prince Philip, first met in 1934. On 9<sup>th</sup> July 1947, their engagement was officially announced and their wedding took place at Westminster Abbey on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1947.

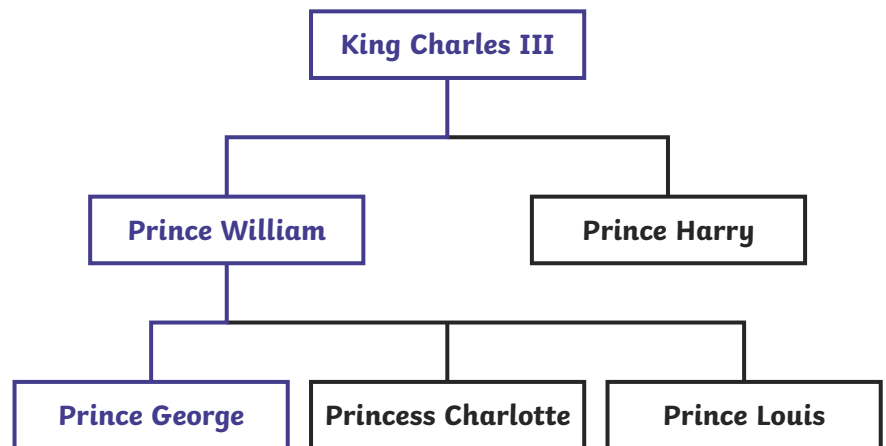


## Coronation

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952, Princess Elizabeth's father, King George VI, died. From this point forward, she became Queen Elizabeth II, assuming the role and responsibility of the monarch. However, she was not crowned Queen Elizabeth II until her official coronation ceremony at Westminster Abbey on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953. The entire ceremony was broadcast on radio and for the first time, at the direct request of Queen Elizabeth II herself, on television. The coronation was a breakthrough for television as, at the time, it was still relatively new technology. More than 20 million people watched the historical moment, outnumbering the radio audience for the first time.



Throughout their long marriage, the royal couple had a large family of four children, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. The current line of succession to the throne is as follows: King Charles III, followed by his son, Prince William, then his grandson, Prince George.



## Later Reign

Throughout her time on the throne, Queen Elizabeth II was praised by many for her calm and peaceful manner. Queen Elizabeth II met weekly with the prime minister of the UK and reigned over 15 different leaders. Notably, she built up a strong, affable relationship with Winston Churchill. During her reign, Queen Elizabeth II travelled extensively across the Commonwealth of Nations. She was also credited with introducing some modernisation to the Royal Family. Aside from her duties, Queen Elizabeth II enjoyed many hobbies and outdoor pursuits, having a particular fondness for horse racing and tending to her beloved corgis.

Sadly, Queen Elizabeth II died on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, at the age of 96. Her son Charles, ascended to the throne to succeed her. Queen Elizabeth II will be long remembered for her extraordinary reign, her sense of duty and her unwavering devotion to her people across the UK and the Commonwealth countries.

# Questions

1. Who became heir to the throne in 1936? Tick one.

- King George VI
- Princess Elizabeth
- Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, The Duchess of York
- King Edward VIII

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Princess Elizabeth was born.
- Princess Elizabeth married Prince Philip.
- The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.
- King Edward VIII abdicated the throne.

3. Find and copy one word which means the ceremony in which a monarch is officially crowned.

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4. Fill in the missing words.

Queen Elizabeth II travelled \_\_\_\_\_ across the Commonwealth of Nations. She was also \_\_\_\_\_ with introducing some modernisation to the Royal Family.

5. What was Queen Elizabeth II's nickname when she was a child?

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6. **The entire ceremony was broadcast on radio and for the first time, at the direct request of Queen Elizabeth II herself, on television.**

What does this tell you about Queen Elizabeth II?

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7. How do you think the life of Princess Margaret compared to that of her sister, Princess Elizabeth?

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8. Summarise the key facts you have learnt about Queen Elizabeth II.

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9. How do you predict Queen Elizabeth II will be remembered?

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# Answers

1. Who became heir to the throne in 1936? Tick one.

- King George VI  
 **Princess Elizabeth**  
 Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, The Duchess of York  
 King Edward VIII

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Princess Elizabeth was born.  
 Princess Elizabeth married Prince Philip.  
 The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.  
 King Edward VIII abdicated the throne.

3. Find and copy one word which means the ceremony in which a monarch is officially crowned.

**coronation**

4. Fill in the missing words.

Queen Elizabeth II travelled **extensively** across the Commonwealth of Nations. She was also **credited** with introducing some modernisation to the Royal Family.

5. What was Queen Elizabeth II's nickname when she was a child?

**Queen Elizabeth II's nickname was Lilibet.**

6. **The entire ceremony was broadcast on radio and for the first time, at the direct request of Queen Elizabeth II herself, on television.**

What does this tell you about Queen Elizabeth II?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: This tells me that Queen Elizabeth II was keen to embrace new technologies and move the monarchy forward. It also tells me that she wanted as many of her people as possible to be able to experience the coronation.**

7. How do you think the life of Princess Margaret compared to that of her sister, Princess Elizabeth?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Princess Margaret's life would have been very different to that of her sister because she was not the heir to the throne. This meant she did not need to go through the process of education and preparation for the role, for example she did not need to study British history and law.**

8. Summarise the key facts you have learnt about Queen Elizabeth II.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I have learnt that Queen Elizabeth II was not destined to rule but that King Edward VIII's abdication changed the path of her life forever. I have also learnt that she was the first monarch to have her entire coronation broadcast on television and that she enjoyed outdoor pursuits, such as horse racing.**

9. How do you predict Queen Elizabeth II will be remembered?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Queen Elizabeth II will be remembered as a calm and very long-reigning monarch who reigned over the Commonwealth of Nations through times of significant change, technological advancements and a plethora of world-altering historical events.**

# The Life of Queen Elizabeth II



**Queen Elizabeth II or - to use her full title - Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith was the longest-serving monarch in British history and served on the throne for 70 years.**

## Early Life

Following the abdication, the Princess's life changed dramatically. She was no longer simply a member of the Royal Family: she was the heir to the throne. Her education, presentation and preparation for the position began immediately. Princess Elizabeth, who went by the nickname Lilibet, had enjoyed a relatively peaceful childhood up until this point. However, as the heir to the throne, Princess Elizabeth became a figure of keen public interest.

Along with her sister, Princess Margaret (born in 1930), Princess Elizabeth was educated at home by a legion of private tutors as well as her father - The King - and other experts. The Princesses were schooled in mathematics, French, music and religion - with Princess Elizabeth also receiving lessons in constitutional history and law.

## Princess Elizabeth

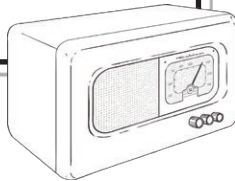
Queen Elizabeth II was born Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1926. Her parents were Prince Albert, Duke of York (who would later become King George VI) and Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, The Duchess of York. At the time of her birth, Princess Elizabeth was not likely to ascend to the monarchy. As the daughter of King Edward VIII's younger brother, she was third in line for the throne. It was presumed that King Edward would marry and that his first child would become the heir with them and any subsequent children gradually shifting Princess Elizabeth further down the line of succession. However, a significant twist in fate caused Princess Elizabeth to become the next in line to the throne in December 1936: her uncle, King Edward VIII, abdicated and the crown passed to his brother, Princess Elizabeth's father.

## Marriage

Princess Elizabeth and her future husband, Prince Philip, first met in 1934. On 9<sup>th</sup> July 1947, their engagement was officially announced and the wedding took place at Westminster Abbey on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1947. Throughout their long marriage, the royal couple had a large family of four children, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, Princess Elizabeth and her sister, along with other members of the Royal Family, left their London homes and spent much of the war away from London at Windsor Castle and other rural locations. It was from Windsor that the Queen-to-be made the first of her famous radio addresses at only 14 years old; she received high praise for her calm and reassuring words, which were noted as providing particular comfort to the children of Britain.

**"... in the end, all will be well; for God will care for us and give us victory and peace."**



## Coronation

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952, Princess Elizabeth's father, King George VI, died. From this point forward, she became Queen Elizabeth II, assuming the role and responsibility of the monarch. However, she was not crowned Queen Elizabeth II until her official coronation ceremony at Westminster Abbey on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953. The entire ceremony was broadcast on radio and, at the direct request of Queen Elizabeth II herself, on television. The coronation was a breakthrough for television as, at the time, it was still relatively new technology. More than 20 million people watched the historical moment, outnumbering the radio audience for the first time.

## Later Reign

Throughout her time on the throne, Queen Elizabeth II was praised by many people for her calm and peaceful manner. As a constitutional monarch, Queen Elizabeth II met weekly with the prime minister of the UK and reigned over 15 different premiers. Notably, she built a strong, affable relationship with Winston Churchill. During her reign, Queen Elizabeth II travelled extensively across the Commonwealth of Nations and encouraged younger members of the Royal Family to do the same. She was also credited with introducing some modernisation to the Royal Family. Aside from her duties, Queen Elizabeth II enjoyed many hobbies and outdoor pursuits, having a particular fondness for horse racing and tending to her beloved corgis.

Sadly, Queen Elizabeth II died on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at the age of 96. Her son, Charles, ascended the throne to succeed her. Queen Elizabeth II will be long remembered for her extraordinary reign, her lifelong sense of duty and her unwavering devotion to her subjects both in the UK and across the Commonwealth countries.

# Questions

1. Who was Queen Elizabeth II's father? Tick one.

- King Edward VIII
- Prince William
- King George VI
- Prince George

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Queen Elizabeth II was crowned.
- King Edward VIII abdicated the throne.
- Princess Margaret was born.
- Princess Elizabeth married Prince Philip.

3. Fill in the missing words.

Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the \_\_\_\_\_ Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other \_\_\_\_\_ and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, \_\_\_\_\_ of the Faith.

4. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'guessed'.

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5. Where did Princess Elizabeth spend most of her time during the Second World War?

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6. Compare how Princess Elizabeth's life was different before and after the abdication of King Edward VIII.

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7. Why do you think Princess Elizabeth received additional lessons in constitutional history and law?

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8. Summarise the most important facts you learnt about Queen Elizabeth II's childhood.

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9. Explain why Princess Elizabeth received great praise at age 14.

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10. How do you predict the role of the monarch may change in the future?

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# Answers

1. Who was Queen Elizabeth II's father? Tick one.

- King Edward VIII
- Prince William
- King George VI**
- Prince George

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 4** Queen Elizabeth II was crowned.
- 2** King Edward VIII abdicated the throne.
- 1** Princess Margaret was born.
- 3** Princess Elizabeth married Prince Philip.

3. Fill in the missing words.

Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the **United** Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other **Realms** and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, **Defender** of the Faith.

4. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'guessed'.

**presumed**

5. Where did Princess Elizabeth spend most of her time during the Second World War?

**Accept any of the following: away from London; at Windsor Castle; in rural locations.**

6. Compare how Princess Elizabeth's life was different before and after the abdication of King Edward VIII.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the abdication of King Edward VIII changed Princess Elizabeth's life significantly. Before the abdication, she was able to live a relatively peaceful life as she was not expected to become queen. After the abdication, her whole life became about preparing her for her future role as the monarch.**

7. Why do you think Princess Elizabeth received additional lessons in constitutional history and law?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Princess Elizabeth received these extra lessons as part of her preparation for becoming queen. As queen, she would be expected to know certain things about history and to understand certain aspects of the law.**

8. Summarise the most important facts you learnt about Queen Elizabeth II's childhood.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I have learnt that the abdication of King Edward VIII led to a major change in the path of Queen Elizabeth II's life. I also learnt that she studied at home with her sister and had to move out of London because of the war.**

9. Explain why Princess Elizabeth received great praise at age 14.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Princess Elizabeth received great praise when she was 14 because she began giving speeches on the radio which were thought to have particularly helped support children and young people during the Second World War.**

10. How do you predict the role of the monarch may change in the future?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the monarch will continue to change as the countries they reign over change. This may mean that their role becomes more of a figurehead rather than a leader. I also think that the way the king or queen communicates with their people will change as new technologies continue to be invented.**