

# Disclaimer

Sensitive and/or upsetting topics may emotionally impact your students due to past experiences. You should consider whether this content is appropriate and ensure adequate support is available for anyone affected.

## Cyphers, Stamps and Coins – What Changes Will We See?



Photo: Postbox with the EIIR cypher.

After the death of Queen Elizabeth II at the age of 96, there will be lots of small changes to everyday items that you will notice.

One of the most noticeable changes will be money. Currently, there are around 29 billion coins in **circulation** in the UK. These all feature the **portrait** of The Queen. All of these coins will slowly be phased out and replaced by those with a portrait of King Charles III.

The portrait that will be used has not yet been revealed. However, what we do know is that the portrait will face the opposite way to Queen Elizabeth II. This is because of a tradition of **successive** monarchs facing opposite directions on coins. As Queen Elizabeth II faces right, King Charles III will face left.

As this will be a slow process, all money with a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II will still be legal to use.

Postage stamps will also change. The Royal Mail has used a side profile of Queen Elizabeth II on all stamps since 1967. Soon, a profile of King Charles III will be seen on stamps.

King Charles III recently revealed his royal cypher, CR, which stands for 'Charles Rex'. Any new postboxes will be given this new royal cypher.

However, all old postboxes will keep their existing cyphers. This is in line with tradition. You can still find older postboxes with the

### What is a royal cypher?

- The royal cypher is an **emblem** or design which represents the monarch.
- It combines a monarch's initials and title. It contains the initial of the monarch's first name followed by 'R'. This stands for 'Rex' or 'Regina' which is Latin for 'king' and 'queen'.

cypher of past kings and queens, such as VR for Queen Victoria. Queen Elizabeth II's 'EIIR' will still be seen on many postboxes for years to come.

The national anthem of the United Kingdom has also changed. It has changed from 'God Save The Queen' to 'God Save The King'. This might take some getting used to as 'God Save The Queen' has been the national anthem of the United Kingdom for 70 years!

### Glossary

<b>emblem</b>	A sign or symbol that represents something or someone.
<b>circulation</b>	Going around or being used.
<b>portrait</b>	A picture that represents someone.
<b>successive</b>	One following another.

# Questions

1. How many coins featuring Queen Elizabeth II are in circulation?

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2. Using the information in the article, explain why it may be rare to come across postboxes with King Charles III’s royal cypher.

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3. Which of the changes mentioned in the article have already happened?

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4. Read the fact box. What is meant by the word ‘monarch’?

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5. Tick to show whether the statement is true or false according to the article.

	True	False
King Charles III’s portrait will face left on coins.		
Coins with Queen Elizabeth II’s portrait will remain legal to use for some time.		
The national anthem has changed to God Save The King.		
All postboxes will be changed to have the CR cypher.		

6. Summarise the key information from the article in 15 words or fewer.

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