

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.

Queen Elizabeth II State Funeral

What is Lying-in-State?

- It's a tradition that takes place before the **funerals** of monarchs and some other very important people.
- Their **coffin** is placed in an important building so that the public can visit and **pay their respects**.

The funeral of Queen Elizabeth II will take place at 11 a.m. on 19th September.

It will be a national bank holiday. This means schools will be closed and so will many businesses.

The state funeral will take place at Westminster Abbey in central London. The Royal Family, **heads of state** and monarchs from around the world will attend.

Following the funeral, The Queen's coffin will travel to Windsor where she will be buried in St George's Chapel.

What is a state funeral?

A state funeral is an event that honours someone who is of great importance to a country. In England, that means they're typically for kings or queens.

However, other important people have received state funerals too. The Duke of Wellington, Admiral Nelson and Sir Isaac Newton had state funerals. The last state funeral in the UK was for Winston Churchill in 1965.

What happens before the funeral?

After Her Majesty's death at Balmoral Castle, the coffin was moved to the Scottish capital, Edinburgh.

It is currently lying at rest in St Giles' Cathedral so that people can pay their respects.

The coffin will then be flown to London and, on Wednesday, taken to Westminster Hall where it will Lie-in-State.



Photo: It will be the first state funeral for a monarch held at Westminster Abbey since George II's in 1760.

The Queen will be Lying-in-State for four days. Four soldiers will stand guard around the coffin 24 hours a day.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors are expected to visit Westminster Hall to see the coffin.

There will be a national one-minute silence on Sunday at 8 p.m. in memory of The Queen.

On Monday morning, Her Majesty's coffin will be taken to Westminster Abbey where the state funeral will take place.

Glossary

funerals Ceremonies or services that take place when a dead person is buried or cremated.

coffin A box in which a dead body is placed before burial or cremation.

pay their respects Make an effort to show honour to someone after their death.

heads of state The leaders of countries.

Questions

1. How long will The Queen Lie-in-State for in London?

2. Look at the paragraph beginning: **The state funeral will...** Find and copy a word which is similar in meaning to 'be there at an event'.

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

	True	False
The Queen's funeral is taking place in Edinburgh.		
24 soldiers will be guarding the coffin day and night.		
This will be the first state funeral for more than 50 years.		
The Queen's funeral is taking place in Westminster Hall.		

4. Find and copy the names of two people who have received state funerals.

1. _____

2. _____

5. How is The Queen's coffin being transported from Edinburgh to London? **(tick one)**

by boat

by train

by horse drawn carriage

by plane

6. Where will The Queen be buried?
