

Queen Elizabeth II

Our Queen, Queen Elizabeth II, became the longest-reigning monarch (King or Queen) in British history in September 2015 when she achieved an amazing 64 years on the throne!

Becoming The Queen

Elizabeth II became Queen of Great Britain and Northern Ireland when her dad – King George VI – died in February 1952. King George had no sons or brothers who could be king, so Elizabeth, King George's eldest daughter had to become queen. The next year, on 2nd of June 1953, Elizabeth II had her coronation, which is a special ceremony where she was given her real crown. This is a really big and important event with a parade, and a throne. It was so important that many people in the UK bought their first television to watch it!

Earlier Life

The Queen (born in 1926) and her younger sister Margaret were the children of King George VI and his wife Queen Elizabeth (who later became the Queen Mother). She was - and still is - an active person and loves horse riding. As a princess, Elizabeth wanted to join in and help with the Second World War effort, so in 1945, she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service where she learned how to drive and fix vehicles.

In 1947, she married her husband, Prince Philip from Greece, and they went on to have four children: Charles (the oldest and next in line to the throne), Anne, Andrew and Edward. Even when planning her wedding, she thought about the war effort and used ration vouchers to buy the fabric for her wedding dress and the cake ingredients were a present from the Australian Girl Guides.



Fact File

- The young Princess Elizabeth performed with Margaret in pantomimes during the Second World War.
- She became a Girl Guide when she was 11 years old.
- In 1965 she gave MBE medals to the very famous pop group, The Beatles.
- When someone in the UK reaches 100 years old they can receive a telegram from The Queen.

Still Busy!

The Queen turned 90 years old in 2016 and she is still going strong. Despite her age, she still works almost every day. She reads about 300 letters a day from people, attends meetings with important people, presents medals or awards, signs official papers, visits places and goes to events. She also reads all about what goes on in parliament every day. She is now a grandmother to eight grandchildren, one of whom is Prince William, who is second in line to the throne. He has also given her three great-grandchildren, which makes a total of eight great-grandchildren so far. She spends most of her time at her official homes of Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, but also at Holyrood in Scotland as well as her two private residences of Balmoral and Sandringham.

She is certainly a hard-working Queen and she has a place in history as one of the most significant monarchs of Great Britain.

Questions

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. In what year did Queen Elizabeth II become the longest-reigning British monarch?

2. In what year was Queen Elizabeth officially crowned?

3. What is the name of The Queen's husband?

4. Name one thing mentioned in the text that she did during the war.

5. What was the name of Elizabeth's sister?

6. Paragraph three mentions a different Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, how did she change from Queen Elizabeth to the Queen Mother?

7. Why do you think that the author has used an exclamation mark at the end of the opening sentence?

8. What does the phrase 'next in line to the throne' mean?

9. Why do you think not many people had a television before 1953?

10. Do you agree with the last sentence? Why or why not?

Answers

1. In what year did Queen Elizabeth II become the longest-reigning British monarch?

2015

2. In what year was Queen Elizabeth officially crowned?

1953

3. What is the name of The Queen's husband?

Prince Philip.

4. Name one thing mentioned in the text that she did during the war.

Any two from: driving, mending/fixing vehicles, joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service, performing in pantomimes (with her sister). NB: the rations for the wedding dress fabric was after the war, but can be classed as part of the war effort.

5. What was the name of Elizabeth's sister?

Princess Margaret.

6. Paragraph three mentions a different Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, how did she change from Queen Elizabeth to the Queen Mother?

She was 'Queen Elizabeth' when she was married to King George VI, but when he died, Princess Elizabeth became The Queen and she became 'The Queen Mother'.

(The answer needs to relate to the main point of the death of King George VI).

7. Why do you think that the author has used an exclamation mark at the end of the opening sentence?

64 years is a long time to be Queen so it is surprising.

8. What does the phrase 'next in line to the throne' mean?

The person who will be king (or queen) next when the current queen or king dies or abdicates.

9. Why do you think not many people had a television before 1953?

For discussion: They had not been invented long, there were not many television programmes, people weren't used to them being around, they were expensive (even when people did get them not every house had one).

10. Do you agree with the last sentence? Why or why not?

Open discussion.