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King George III of England and Scotland

George William Frederick was born June 4, 1738 to Frederick, Prince of Wales and Princess Augusta of Saxe-Gotha. He was their oldest son and became king after George II, his grandfather, died in 1760. King George III ruled over England and Scotland for almost 60 years. He was the 3rd Hanoverian monarch, first to be born in England, and to use English as his first language as a ruler. He was known as “the king who lost America and his mind.” (Royal United Kingdom website)

FAMILY

King George III was known for being a loving father to his 15 children and his wife, Charlotte Sophia of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. Out of George and Charlotte’s 15 children, 13 of them became adults. The oldest son was Prince Regent for his father when he went mad. The Prince Regent acted on King George’s behalf until he died. Then the Prince Regent became King George IV of England and Scotland. (Kids Britannica)

ACHIEVEMENTS

George had many achievements as king of England and Scotland but was also known in a negative way. He was known as “one of the most cultured of the monarchs.” With about 65,000 books in his royal collection, King George III let others use these books for their education. The Royal Academy of Art was started by the king. “Farmer George” was the king’s nickname because of his interest in farming. Science was part of his education which wasn’t normal for royalty and had his own astronomical lab. These achievements were the positive things that he achieved even though he is more famous for his negative achievements.

INTERESTING FACTS

King George III is known for losing the colonies of America. Many medical historians believe that the king had a hereditary disorder called porphyria. Porphyria is where your red blood cells are low and your spleen is enlarged. This disease is believed to be the reason that the king “lost his mind.” Because of the “lawless behavior” in the colonies, King George III wanted Parliament to punish them with four laws. These laws were known as the Intolerable Acts. (American History page 157) The acts included closing the Boston port, colonists couldn’t meet but once a year without permission, custom officers that got in trouble could be tried in Britain or Canada, and lastly the “Quartering Act’ where colonists had to let soldiers live with them.

King George III will always be known as “the king who lost America and his mind.” The colonies became free because of King George III and the Parliament of England and Scotland and their taxes on them. All of his accomplishments in England were to benefit the English people.

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