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BOLD/STRONG: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize, Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis, The Queen, Elizabeth II, Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, ^, a, b, a, b, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, ^, a, b, ^, ^, a, b, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, c, d, e, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, a, b, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, a, b, a, b, a, b, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, a, b, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, ^, 9, House of Windsor, Born:, Queen of the United Kingdom , Incumbent, Queen of Australia , Queen of Canada , Queen of New Zealand , Queen of Ceylon , Republics established , Queen of Pakistan , Queen of South Africa , New title, Queen of Ghana , Queen of Nigeria , Queen of Sierra Leone , Queen of Tanganyika , Queen of Trinidad and Tobago , Queen of Uganda , Queen of Kenya , Queen of Malawi , Queen of Malta , Queen of the Gambia , Queen of Guyana , Queen of Barbados , Queen of Mauritius , Queen of Fiji , Queen of Jamaica , Incumbent, Queen of the Bahamas , Queen of Grenada , New title, Queen of Papua New Guinea , New title, Queen of the Solomon Islands , Queen of Tuvalu , Queen of Saint Lucia , Queen of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines , Queen of Belize , Queen of Antigua and Barbuda , Queen of Saint Kitts and Nevis , Head of the Commonwealth , Incumbent, Lord High Admiral , Monarchs of England and Scotland after the Union of the Crowns from 1603, British monarchs after the Acts of Union 1707, Elizabeth II, Media, News, Quotations, Texts, Data,   
Italic: : Head of the Commonwealth, present, present, present, present, present, present, present, present, present, present, present, present, present, present, Detail, annus horribilis, annus horribilis, Time, The Little Princesses, Luftwaffe, Children's Hour, The Times, Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, His Royal Highness, House of Mountbatten, House of Edinburgh, Windsor, Mountbatten-Windsor, The Sun, The Observer, The Sunday Times, It's a Royal Knockout, annus horribilis, annus horribilis, The Sun, The Sun, Auld Lang Syne, Daily Mirror, The Daily Telegraph, Times, Royal Family, Sunday Times Rich List 2020, Sunday Times Rich List 1989, Her Royal Highness, Her Royal Highness, Her Royal Highness, Her Majesty, Queen of Jamaica and her other realms and territories, Queen of Australia and her other realms and territories, Your Majesty, Ma'am, jam, The Guardian, a, b, Her Majesty The Queen: Early life and education, a, b, a, b, Princess Margaret: A Life of Contrasts, Queen Elizabeth the 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The Coronation Theatre: Portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth II, Beautiful Portrait, The Queen, Queen Elizabeth II, Algorithm Queen, The Queen and I, The Little Princesses, The Uncommon Reader, Winnie-the-Pooh Meets the Queen, Queen Camilla, Ælfweard, Edgar Ætheling, Matilda, Henry the Young King, Jane, Philip, Kenneth I MacAlpin, Donald I, Constantine I, Áed, Giric, Eochaid, Amlaíb, Margaret, Edward Balliol, italics, Ex officio, Five vacancies, prince, princess, Lady Louise Mountbatten-Windsor, Duchesses of Gloucester and Edinburgh, Time, The Capital,   
TEXT: Queen of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms (born 1926)  
  
Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary; born 21 April 1926)[a] is Queen of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms.[b][c]  
  
Elizabeth was born in Mayfair, London, as the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth). Her father acceded to the throne in 1936 upon the abdication of his brother, King Edward VIII, making Elizabeth the heir presumptive. She was educated privately at home and began to undertake public duties during the Second World War, serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. In November 1947, she married Philip Mountbatten, a former prince of Greece and Denmark, and their marriage lasted 73 years until Philip's death in 2021. They had four children: Charles, Prince of Wales; Anne, Princess Royal; Prince Andrew, Duke of York; and Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex.  
  
When her father died in February 1952, Elizabeth—then 25 years old—became queen regnant of seven independent Commonwealth countries: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon, as well as Head of the Commonwealth. Elizabeth has reigned as a constitutional monarch through major political changes such as the Troubles in Northern Ireland, devolution in the United Kingdom, the decolonisation of Africa, and the United Kingdom's accession to the European Communities and withdrawal from the European Union. The number of her realms has varied over time as territories have gained independence, and as some realms have become republics. Her many historic visits and meetings include state visits to the People's Republic of China in 1986, the Russian Federation in 1994, the Republic of Ireland in 2011, and visits to or from five popes.  
  
Significant events have included Elizabeth's coronation in 1953 and the celebrations of her Silver, Golden, Diamond and Platinum jubilees in 1977, 2002, 2012, and 2022, respectively. Elizabeth is the longest-lived and longest-reigning British monarch, the oldest and longest-serving incumbent head of state, and the second-longest reigning sovereign monarch in world history. She has faced occasional republican sentiment and press criticism of the royal family, particularly after the breakdown of her children's marriages, her annus horribilis in 1992, and the death in 1997 of her former daughter-in-law Diana, Princess of Wales. However, support for the monarchy in the United Kingdom has been and remains consistently high, as does her personal popularity.  
  
Early life  
  
Elizabeth was born at 02:40 (GMT) on 21 April 1926, during the reign of her paternal grandfather, King George V. Her father, the Duke of York (later King George VI), was the second son of the King. Her mother, the Duchess of York (later Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother), was the youngest daughter of Scottish aristocrat Claude Bowes-Lyon, 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, at whose London home (17 Bruton Street, Mayfair) she was delivered by Caesarean section.[2] She was baptised by the Anglican Archbishop of York, Cosmo Gordon Lang, in the private chapel of Buckingham Palace on 29 May,[3][d] and named Elizabeth after her mother; Alexandra after her paternal great-grandmother, who had died six months earlier; and Mary after her paternal grandmother.[5] Called "Lilibet" by her close family,[6] based on what she called herself at first,[7] she was cherished by her grandfather, George V, whom she affectionately called "Grandpa England",[8] and during his serious illness in 1929 her regular visits were credited in the popular press and by later biographers with raising his spirits and aiding his recovery.[9]  
  
Elizabeth's only sibling, Princess Margaret, was born in 1930. The two princesses were educated at home under the supervision of their mother and their governess, Marion Crawford.[10] Lessons concentrated on history, language, literature, and music.[11] Crawford published a biography of Elizabeth and Margaret's childhood years entitled The Little Princesses in 1950, much to the dismay of the royal family.[12] The book describes Elizabeth's love of horses and dogs, her orderliness, and her attitude of responsibility.[13] Others echoed such observations: Winston Churchill described Elizabeth when she was two as "a character. She has an air of authority and reflectiveness astonishing in an infant."[14] Her cousin Margaret Rhodes described her as "a jolly little girl, but fundamentally sensible and well-behaved".[15]  
  
Heir presumptive  
  
During her grandfather's reign, Elizabeth was third in the line of succession to the British throne, behind her uncle Edward and her father. Although her birth generated public interest, she was not expected to become queen, as Edward was still young and likely to marry and have children of his own, who would precede Elizabeth in the line of succession.[16] When her grandfather died in 1936 and her uncle succeeded as Edward VIII, she became second in line to the throne, after her father. Later that year, Edward abdicated, after his proposed marriage to divorced socialite Wallis Simpson provoked a constitutional crisis.[17] Consequently, Elizabeth's father became king, taking the regnal name George VI. Since Elizabeth had no brothers, she became heir presumptive. If her parents had had a later son, he would have been heir apparent and above her in the line of succession, which was determined by male-preference primogeniture at the time.[18]  
  
Elizabeth received private tuition in constitutional history from Henry Marten, Vice-Provost of Eton College,[19] and learned French from a succession of native-speaking governesses.[20] A Girl Guides company, the 1st Buckingham Palace Company, was formed specifically so she could socialise with girls her own age.[21] Later, she was enrolled as a Sea Ranger.[20]  
  
In 1939, Elizabeth's parents toured Canada and the United States. As in 1927, when they had toured Australia and New Zealand, Elizabeth remained in Britain, since her father thought her too young to undertake public tours.[22] She "looked tearful" as her parents departed.[23] They corresponded regularly,[23] and she and her parents made the first royal transatlantic telephone call on 18 May.[22]  
  
Second World War  
  
In September 1939, Britain entered the Second World War. Lord Hailsham suggested that Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret should be evacuated to Canada to avoid the frequent aerial bombings of London by the Luftwaffe.[24] This was rejected by their mother, who declared, "The children won't go without me. I won't leave without the King. And the King will never leave."[25] The princesses stayed at Balmoral Castle, Scotland, until Christmas 1939, when they moved to Sandringham House, Norfolk.[26] From February to May 1940, they lived at Royal Lodge, Windsor, until moving to Windsor Castle, where they lived for most of the next five years.[27] At Windsor, the princesses staged pantomimes at Christmas in aid of the Queen's Wool Fund, which bought yarn to knit into military garments.[28] In 1940, the 14-year-old Elizabeth made her first radio broadcast during the BBC's Children's Hour, addressing other children who had been evacuated from the cities.[29] She stated: "We are trying to do all we can to help our gallant sailors, soldiers, and airmen, and we are trying, too, to bear our own share of the danger and sadness of war. We know, every one of us, that in the end all will be well."[29]  
  
In 1943, Elizabeth undertook her first solo public appearance on a visit to the Grenadier Guards, of which she had been appointed colonel the previous year.[30] As she approached her 18th birthday, parliament changed the law so she could act as one of five Counsellors of State in the event of her father's incapacity or absence abroad, such as his visit to Italy in July 1944.[31] In February 1945, she was appointed as an honorary second subaltern in the Auxiliary Territorial Service with the service number of 230873.[32] She trained as a driver and mechanic and was given the rank of honorary junior commander (female equivalent of captain at the time) five months later.[33][34][35]  
  
At the end of the war in Europe, on Victory in Europe Day, Elizabeth and Margaret mingled incognito with the celebrating crowds in the streets of London. Elizabeth later said in a rare interview, "We asked my parents if we could go out and see for ourselves. I remember we were terrified of being recognised ... I remember lines of unknown people linking arms and walking down Whitehall, all of us just swept along on a tide of happiness and relief."[36]  
  
During the war, plans were drawn up to quell Welsh nationalism by affiliating Elizabeth more closely with Wales. Proposals, such as appointing her Constable of Caernarfon Castle or a patron of Urdd Gobaith Cymru (the Welsh League of Youth), were abandoned for several reasons, including fear of associating Elizabeth with conscientious objectors in the Urdd at a time when Britain was at war.[37] Welsh politicians suggested she be made Princess of Wales on her 18th birthday. Home Secretary Herbert Morrison supported the idea, but the King rejected it because he felt such a title belonged solely to the wife of a Prince of Wales and the Prince of Wales had always been the heir apparent.[38] In 1946, she was inducted into the Gorsedd of Bards at the National Eisteddfod of Wales.[39]  
  
Princess Elizabeth went on her first overseas tour in 1947, accompanying her parents through southern Africa. During the tour, in a broadcast to the British Commonwealth on her 21st birthday, she made the following pledge: "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."[40] The speech was written by Dermot Morrah, a journalist for The Times.[41]  
  
Marriage  
  
Posing for photographs at Buckingham Palace with new husband Philip after their wedding, 1947  
  
Elizabeth met her future husband, Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark, in 1934 and again in 1937.[42] They were second cousins once removed through King Christian IX of Denmark and third cousins through Queen Victoria. After meeting for the third time at the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth in July 1939, Elizabeth—though only 13 years old—said she fell in love with Philip, and they began to exchange letters.[43] She was 21 when their engagement was officially announced on 9 July 1947.[44]  
  
The engagement was not without controversy; Philip had no financial standing, was foreign-born (though a British subject who had served in the Royal Navy throughout the Second World War), and had sisters who had married German noblemen with Nazi links.[45] Marion Crawford wrote, "Some of the King's advisors did not think him good enough for her. He was a prince without a home or kingdom. Some of the papers played long and loud tunes on the string of Philip's foreign origin."[46] Later biographies reported that Elizabeth's mother had reservations about the union initially, and teased Philip as "The Hun".[47][48] In later life, however, the Queen Mother told biographer Tim Heald that Philip was "an English gentleman".[49]  
  
Before the marriage, Philip renounced his Greek and Danish titles, officially converted from Greek Orthodoxy to Anglicanism, and adopted the style Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, taking the surname of his mother's British family.[50] Shortly before the wedding, he was created Duke of Edinburgh and granted the style His Royal Highness.[51] Elizabeth and Philip were married on 20 November 1947 at Westminster Abbey. They received 2,500 wedding gifts from around the world.[52] Elizabeth required ration coupons to buy the material for her gown (which was designed by Norman Hartnell) because Britain had not yet completely recovered from the devastation of the war.[53] In post-war Britain, it was not acceptable for Philip's German relations, including his three surviving sisters, to be invited to the wedding.[54] Neither was an invitation extended to the Duke of Windsor, formerly King Edward VIII.[55]  
  
Elizabeth gave birth to her first child, Prince Charles, on 14 November 1948. One month earlier, the King had issued letters patent allowing her children to use the style and title of a royal prince or princess, to which they otherwise would not have been entitled as their father was no longer a royal prince.[56] A second child, Princess Anne, was born on 15 August 1950.[57]  
  
Following their wedding, the couple leased Windlesham Moor, near Windsor Castle, until July 1949,[52] when they took up residence at Clarence House in London. At various times between 1949 and 1951, the Duke of Edinburgh was stationed in the British Crown Colony of Malta as a serving Royal Navy officer. He and Elizabeth lived intermittently in Malta for several months at a time in the hamlet of Gwardamanġa, at Villa Guardamangia, the rented home of Philip's uncle, Lord Mountbatten. Their two children remained in Britain.[58]  
  
Reign  
  
Accession and coronation  
  
George VI's health declined during 1951, and Elizabeth frequently stood in for him at public events. When she toured Canada and visited President Harry S. Truman in Washington, D.C., in October 1951, her private secretary, Martin Charteris, carried a draft accession declaration in case of the King's death while she was on tour.[59] In early 1952, Elizabeth and Philip set out for a tour of Australia and New Zealand by way of Kenya. On 6 February 1952, they had just returned to their Kenyan home, Sagana Lodge, after a night spent at Treetops Hotel, when word arrived of the death of George VI and Elizabeth's consequent accession to the throne with immediate effect. Philip broke the news to the new queen.[60] She chose to retain Elizabeth as her regnal name;[61] thus she was called Elizabeth II, which offended many Scots, as she was the first Elizabeth to rule in Scotland.[62] She was proclaimed queen throughout her realms and the royal party hastily returned to the United Kingdom.[63] Elizabeth and Philip moved into Buckingham Palace.[64]  
  
With Elizabeth's accession, it seemed probable that the royal house would bear the Duke of Edinburgh's name, in line with the custom of a wife taking her husband's surname on marriage. Lord Mountbatten advocated the name House of Mountbatten. Philip suggested House of Edinburgh, after his ducal title.[65] The British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, and Elizabeth's grandmother, Queen Mary, favoured the retention of the House of Windsor, so Elizabeth issued a declaration on 9 April 1952 that Windsor would continue to be the name of the royal house. The Duke complained, "I am the only man in the country not allowed to give his name to his own children."[66] In 1960, the surname Mountbatten-Windsor was adopted for Philip and Elizabeth's male-line descendants who do not carry royal titles.[67]  
  
Amid preparations for the coronation, Princess Margaret told her sister she wished to marry Peter Townsend, a divorcé‚ 16 years Margaret's senior and with two sons from his previous marriage. The Queen asked them to wait for a year; in the words of her private secretary, "the Queen was naturally sympathetic towards the Princess, but I think she thought—she hoped—given time, the affair would peter out."[68] Senior politicians were against the match and the Church of England did not permit remarriage after divorce. If Margaret had contracted a civil marriage, she would have been expected to renounce her right of succession.[69] Margaret decided to abandon her plans with Townsend.[70]  
  
Despite the death of Queen Mary on 24 March 1953, the coronation went ahead as planned on 2 June, as Mary had requested before she died.[71] The coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey, with the exception of the anointing and communion, was televised for the first time.[72][e] On Elizabeth's instruction, her coronation gown was embroidered with the floral emblems of Commonwealth countries.[76]  
  
Continuing evolution of the Commonwealth  
  
Elizabeth's realms (light red and pink) and their territories and protectorates (dark red) at the beginning of her reign in 1952  
  
From Elizabeth's birth onwards, the British Empire continued its transformation into the Commonwealth of Nations.[77] By the time of her accession in 1952, her role as head of multiple independent states was already established.[78] In 1953, the Queen and her husband embarked on a seven-month round-the-world tour, visiting 13 countries and covering more than 40,000 miles (64,000 kilometres) by land, sea and air.[79] She became the first reigning monarch of Australia and New Zealand to visit those nations.[80] During the tour, crowds were immense; three-quarters of the population of Australia were estimated to have seen her.[81] Throughout her reign, the Queen has made hundreds of state visits to other countries and tours of the Commonwealth; she is the most widely travelled head of state.[82]  
  
In 1956, the British and French prime ministers, Sir Anthony Eden and Guy Mollet, discussed the possibility of France joining the Commonwealth. The proposal was never accepted and the following year France signed the Treaty of Rome, which established the European Economic Community, the precursor to the European Union.[83] In November 1956, Britain and France invaded Egypt in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to capture the Suez Canal. Lord Mountbatten said the Queen was opposed to the invasion, though Eden denied it. Eden resigned two months later.[84]  
  
The absence of a formal mechanism within the Conservative Party for choosing a leader meant that, following Eden's resignation, it fell to the Queen to decide whom to commission to form a government. Eden recommended she consult Lord Salisbury, the Lord President of the Council. Lord Salisbury and Lord Kilmuir, the Lord Chancellor, consulted the British Cabinet, Churchill, and the Chairman of the backbench 1922 Committee, resulting in the Queen appointing their recommended candidate: Harold Macmillan.[85]  
  
The Suez crisis and the choice of Eden's successor led, in 1957, to the first major personal criticism of the Queen. In a magazine, which he owned and edited,[86] Lord Altrincham accused her of being "out of touch".[87] Altrincham was denounced by public figures and slapped by a member of the public appalled by his comments.[88] Six years later, in 1963, Macmillan resigned and advised the Queen to appoint the Earl of Home as prime minister, advice she followed.[89] The Queen again came under criticism for appointing the prime minister on the advice of a small number of ministers or a single minister.[89] In 1965, the Conservatives adopted a formal mechanism for electing a leader, thus relieving her of involvement.[90]  
  
Seated with Philip on thrones at Canadian parliament, 1957  
  
In 1957, Elizabeth made a state visit to the United States, where she addressed the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of the Commonwealth. On the same tour, she opened the 23rd Canadian Parliament, becoming the first monarch of Canada to open a parliamentary session.[91] Two years later, solely in her capacity as Queen of Canada, she revisited the United States and toured Canada.[91][92] In 1961, she toured Cyprus, India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Iran.[93] On a visit to Ghana the same year, she dismissed fears for her safety, even though her host, President Kwame Nkrumah, who had replaced her as head of state, was a target for assassins.[94] Harold Macmillan wrote, "The Queen has been absolutely determined all through ... She is impatient of the attitude towards her to treat her as ... a film star ... She has indeed 'the heart and stomach of a man' ... She loves her duty and means to be a Queen."[94] Before her tour through parts of Quebec in 1964, the press reported extremists within the Quebec separatist movement were plotting Elizabeth's assassination.[95][96] No attempt was made, but a riot did break out while she was in Montreal; the Queen's "calmness and courage in the face of the violence" was noted.[97]  
  
Elizabeth gave birth to her third child, Prince Andrew, on 19 February 1960, which was the first birth to a reigning British monarch since 1857.[98] Her fourth child, Prince Edward, was born on 10 March 1964.[99]  
  
In addition to performing traditional ceremonies, the Queen has also instituted new practices. Her first royal walkabout, meeting ordinary members of the public, took place during a tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1970.[100]  
  
Acceleration of decolonisation  
  
The 1960s and 1970s saw an acceleration in the decolonisation of Africa and the Caribbean. More than 20 countries gained independence from Britain as part of a planned transition to self-government. In 1965, however, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, Ian Smith, in opposition to moves towards majority rule, unilaterally declared independence while expressing "loyalty and devotion" to Elizabeth, declaring her "Queen of Rhodesia".[101] Although the Queen formally dismissed him, and the international community applied sanctions against Rhodesia, his regime survived for over a decade.[102] As Britain's ties to its former empire weakened, the British government sought entry to the European Community, a goal it achieved in 1973.[103]  
  
The Queen toured Yugoslavia in October 1972, becoming the first British monarch to visit a communist country.[104] She was received at the airport by President Josip Broz Tito, and a crowd of thousands greeted her in Belgrade.[105]  
  
With President Tito of Yugoslavia in Belgrade, 1972  
  
In February 1974, the British Prime Minister, Edward Heath, advised the Queen to call a general election in the middle of her tour of the Austronesian Pacific Rim, requiring her to fly back to Britain.[106] The election resulted in a hung parliament; Heath's Conservatives were not the largest party, but could stay in office if they formed a coalition with the Liberals. When discussions on forming a coalition foundered, Heath resigned as British Prime Minister and the Queen asked the Leader of the Opposition, Labour's Harold Wilson, to form a government.[107]  
  
A year later, at the height of the 1975 Australian constitutional crisis, the Australian Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, was dismissed from his post by Governor-General Sir John Kerr, after the Opposition-controlled Senate rejected Whitlam's budget proposals.[108] As Whitlam had a majority in the House of Representatives, Speaker Gordon Scholes appealed to the Queen to reverse Kerr's decision. She declined, saying she would not interfere in decisions reserved by the Constitution of Australia for the Governor-General.[109] The crisis fuelled Australian republicanism.[108]  
  
Silver Jubilee  
  
In 1977, Elizabeth marked the Silver Jubilee of her accession. Parties and events took place throughout the Commonwealth, many coinciding with her associated national and Commonwealth tours. The celebrations re-affirmed the Queen's popularity, despite virtually coincident negative press coverage of Princess Margaret's separation from her husband, Lord Snowdon.[110] In 1978, the Queen endured a state visit to the United Kingdom by Romania's communist leader, Nicolae Ceaușescu, and his wife, Elena,[111] though privately she thought they had "blood on their hands".[112] The following year brought two blows: one was the unmasking of Anthony Blunt, former Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, as a communist spy; the other was the assassination of her relative and in-law Lord Mountbatten by the Provisional Irish Republican Army.[113]  
  
According to Paul Martin Sr., by the end of the 1970s the Queen was worried the Crown "had little meaning for" Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister.[114] Tony Benn said the Queen found Trudeau "rather disappointing".[114] Trudeau's supposed republicanism seemed to be confirmed by his antics, such as sliding down banisters at Buckingham Palace and pirouetting behind the Queen's back in 1977, and the removal of various Canadian royal symbols during his term of office.[114] In 1980, Canadian politicians sent to London to discuss the patriation of the Canadian constitution found the Queen "better informed ... than any of the British politicians or bureaucrats".[114] She was particularly interested after the failure of Bill C-60, which would have affected her role as head of state.[114]  
  
Press scrutiny and Thatcher premiership  
  
During the 1981 Trooping the Colour ceremony, six weeks before the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer, six shots were fired at the Queen from close range as she rode down The Mall, London, on her horse, Burmese. Police later discovered the shots were blanks. The 17-year-old assailant, Marcus Sarjeant, was sentenced to five years in prison and released after three.[115] The Queen's composure and skill in controlling her mount were widely praised.[116] That October the Queen was the subject of another attack while on a visit to Dunedin, New Zealand. Christopher John Lewis, who was 17 years old, fired a shot with a .22 rifle from the fifth floor of a building overlooking the parade, but missed.[117] Lewis was arrested, but never charged with attempted murder or treason, and sentenced to three years in jail for unlawful possession and discharge of a firearm. Two years into his sentence, he attempted to escape a psychiatric hospital with the intention of assassinating Charles, who was visiting the country with Diana and their son Prince William.[118]  
  
From April to September 1982, the Queen's son, Prince Andrew, served with British forces in the Falklands War, for which she reportedly felt anxiety[119] and pride.[120] On 9 July, she awoke in her bedroom at Buckingham Palace to find an intruder, Michael Fagan, in the room with her. In a serious lapse of security, assistance only arrived after two calls to the Palace police switchboard.[121] After hosting US President Ronald Reagan at Windsor Castle in 1982 and visiting his California ranch in 1983, the Queen was angered when his administration ordered the invasion of Grenada, one of her Caribbean realms, without informing her.[122]  
  
Intense media interest in the opinions and private lives of the royal family during the 1980s led to a series of sensational stories in the press, not all of which were entirely true.[123] As Kelvin MacKenzie, editor of The Sun, told his staff: "Give me a Sunday for Monday splash on the Royals. Don't worry if it's not true—so long as there's not too much of a fuss about it afterwards."[124] Newspaper editor Donald Trelford wrote in The Observer of 21 September 1986: "The royal soap opera has now reached such a pitch of public interest that the boundary between fact and fiction has been lost sight of ... it is not just that some papers don't check their facts or accept denials: they don't care if the stories are true or not." It was reported, most notably in The Sunday Times of 20 July 1986, that the Queen was worried that Margaret Thatcher's economic policies fostered social divisions and was alarmed by high unemployment, a series of riots, the violence of a miners' strike, and Thatcher's refusal to apply sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa. The sources of the rumours included royal aide Michael Shea and Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal, but Shea claimed his remarks were taken out of context and embellished by speculation.[125] Thatcher reputedly said the Queen would vote for the Social Democratic Party—Thatcher's political opponents.[126] Thatcher's biographer, John Campbell, claimed "the report was a piece of journalistic mischief-making".[127] Reports of acrimony between them were exaggerated,[128] and the Queen gave two honours in her personal gift—membership in the Order of Merit and the Order of the Garter—to Thatcher after her replacement as prime minister by John Major.[129] Brian Mulroney, Canadian prime minister between 1984 and 1993, said Elizabeth was a "behind the scenes force" in ending apartheid.[130][131]  
  
In 1986, the Queen paid a six-day state visit to China, becoming the first British monarch to visit the country.[132] The tour included the Forbidden City, the Great Wall of China, and the Terracotta Warriors.[133] At a state banquet, the Queen joked about the first British emissary to China being lost at sea with Queen Elizabeth I's letter to the Wanli Emperor, and remarked, "fortunately postal services have improved since 1602".[134] The Queen's visit also signified the acceptance of both countries that sovereignty over Hong Kong would be transferred from the United Kingdom to China in 1997.[135]  
  
By the end of the 1980s, the Queen had become the target of satire.[136] The involvement of younger members of the royal family in the charity game show It's a Royal Knockout in 1987 was ridiculed.[137] In Canada, Elizabeth publicly supported politically divisive constitutional amendments, prompting criticism from opponents of the proposed changes, including Pierre Trudeau.[130] The same year, the elected Fijian government was deposed in a military coup. As monarch of Fiji, Elizabeth supported the attempts of Governor-General Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau to assert executive power and negotiate a settlement. Coup leader Sitiveni Rabuka deposed Ganilau and declared Fiji a republic.[138]  
  
Turbulent 1990s and annus horribilis  
  
Philip and Elizabeth in Germany, October 1992  
  
In the wake of coalition victory in the Gulf War, the Queen became the first British monarch to address a joint meeting of the United States Congress in May 1991.[139]  
  
On 24 November 1992, in a speech to mark the Ruby Jubilee of her accession to the throne, Elizabeth called 1992 her annus horribilis (a Latin phrase, meaning "horrible year").[140] Republican feeling in Britain had risen because of press estimates of the Queen's private wealth—contradicted by the Palace—and reports of affairs and strained marriages among her extended family.[141] In March, her second son, Prince Andrew, separated from his wife, Sarah, and Mauritius removed Elizabeth as head of state; her daughter, Princess Anne, divorced Captain Mark Phillips in April;[142] angry demonstrators in Dresden threw eggs at the Queen during a state visit to Germany in October;[143] and a large fire broke out at Windsor Castle, one of her official residences, in November. The monarchy came under increased criticism and public scrutiny.[144] In an unusually personal speech, the Queen said that any institution must expect criticism, but suggested it might be done with "a touch of humour, gentleness and understanding".[145] Two days later, Prime Minister John Major announced plans to reform the royal finances, drawn up the previous year, including the Queen paying income tax from 1993 onwards, and a reduction in the civil list.[146] In December, Prince Charles and his wife, Diana, formally separated.[147] At the end of the year, the Queen sued The Sun newspaper for breach of copyright when it published the text of her annual Christmas message two days before it was broadcast. The newspaper was forced to pay her legal fees and donated £200,000 to charity.[148] The Queen's solicitors had taken action against The Sun five years earlier for breach of copyright, after it published a photograph of the Duchess of York and Princess Beatrice. The case was solved with an out-of-court settlement that ordered the newspaper to pay $180,000.[149]  
  
In October 1994, the Queen became the first reigning British monarch to set foot on Russian soil.[f][152] During the four-day visit, which is considered to be one of the most important foreign trips of the Queen's reign,[153] she and Philip attended events in Moscow and St. Petersburg.[154] In October 1995, the Queen was tricked into a hoax call by Montreal radio host Pierre Brassard impersonating Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. The Queen, who believed that she was speaking to Chrétien, said she supported Canadian unity, and would try to influence Quebec's referendum on proposals to break away from Canada.[155][156]  
  
In the year that followed, public revelations on the state of Charles and Diana's marriage continued.[157] In consultation with her husband and John Major, as well as the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, and her private secretary, Robert Fellowes, she wrote to Charles and Diana at the end of December 1995, suggesting that a divorce would be advisable.[158]  
  
In August 1997, a year after the divorce, Diana was killed in a car crash in Paris. The Queen was on holiday with her extended family at Balmoral. Diana's two sons by Charles—Princes William and Harry—wanted to attend church and so the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh took them that morning.[159] Afterwards, for five days the Queen and the Duke shielded their grandsons from the intense press interest by keeping them at Balmoral where they could grieve in private,[160] but the royal family's silence and seclusion, and the failure to fly a flag at half-mast over Buckingham Palace, caused public dismay.[131][161] Pressured by the hostile reaction, the Queen agreed to return to London and do a live television broadcast on 5 September, the day before Diana's funeral.[162] In the broadcast, she expressed admiration for Diana and her feelings "as a grandmother" for the two princes.[163] As a result, much of the public hostility evaporated.[163]  
  
In October 1997, Elizabeth and Philip made a state visit to India, which included a controversial visit to the site of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre to pay her respects. Protesters chanted "Killer Queen, go back",[164] and there were demands for her to apologise for the action of British troops 78 years earlier.[165] At the memorial in the park, she and the Duke paid their respects by laying a wreath and stood for a 30‑second moment of silence.[165] As a result, much of the fury among the public softened and the protests were called off.[164]  
  
In November of that year, the Queen and her husband held a reception at Banqueting House to mark their golden wedding anniversary.[166] She made a speech and praised Philip for his role as a consort, referring to him as "my strength and stay".[166]  
  
Golden Jubilee  
  
On the eve of the new millennium, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh boarded a vessel from Southwark, bound for the Millennium Dome. Before passing under Tower Bridge, the Queen lit the National Millennium Beacon in the Pool of London using a laser torch.[167][168] Shortly before midnight, she officially opened the Dome.[169] During the singing of Auld Lang Syne, the Queen held hands with the Duke and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.[170][171]  
  
In 2002, the Queen marked her Golden Jubilee, the 50th anniversary of her accession. Her sister and mother died in February and March respectively, and the media speculated on whether the Jubilee would be a success or a failure.[172] She again undertook an extensive tour of her realms, beginning in Jamaica in February, where she called the farewell banquet "memorable" after a power cut plunged the King's House, the official residence of the governor-general, into darkness.[173] As in 1977, there were street parties and commemorative events, and monuments were named to honour the occasion. One million people attended each day of the three-day main Jubilee celebration in London,[174] and the enthusiasm shown for the Queen by the public was greater than many journalists had anticipated.[175]  
  
In 2003, the Queen sued Daily Mirror for breach of confidence and obtained an injunction which prevented the outlet from publishing information gathered by a reporter who posed as a footman at Buckingham Palace.[176] The newspaper also paid £25,000 towards her legal costs.[177] Though generally healthy throughout her life, in 2003 the Queen had keyhole surgery on both knees. In October 2006, she missed the opening of the new Emirates Stadium because of a strained back muscle that had been troubling her since the summer.[178]  
  
In May 2007, citing unnamed sources, The Daily Telegraph reported that the Queen was "exasperated and frustrated" by the policies of Tony Blair, that she was concerned the British Armed Forces were overstretched in Iraq and Afghanistan, and that she had raised concerns over rural and countryside issues with Blair.[179] She was, however, said to admire Blair's efforts to achieve peace in Northern Ireland.[180] She became the first British monarch to celebrate a diamond wedding anniversary in November 2007.[181] On 20 March 2008, at the Church of Ireland St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, the Queen attended the first Maundy service held outside England and Wales.[182]  
  
Elizabeth addressed the UN General Assembly for a second time in 2010, again in her capacity as Queen of all Commonwealth realms and Head of the Commonwealth.[183] The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, introduced her as "an anchor for our age".[184] During her visit to New York, which followed a tour of Canada, she officially opened a memorial garden for British victims of the September 11 attacks.[184] The Queen's 11-day visit to Australia in October 2011 was her 16th visit to the country since 1954.[185] By invitation of the Irish President, Mary McAleese, she made the first state visit to the Republic of Ireland by a British monarch in May 2011.[186]  
  
Diamond Jubilee and longevity  
  
Visiting Birmingham in July 2012 as part of the Diamond Jubilee tour  
  
The Queen's 2012 Diamond Jubilee marked 60 years on the throne, and celebrations were held throughout her realms, the wider Commonwealth, and beyond. She and her husband undertook an extensive tour of the United Kingdom, while her children and grandchildren embarked on royal tours of other Commonwealth states on her behalf.[187][188] On 4 June, Jubilee beacons were lit around the world.[189] While touring Manchester as part of her Jubilee celebrations, the Queen made a surprise appearance at a wedding party at Manchester Town Hall, which then made international headlines.[190] In November, the Queen and her husband celebrated their blue sapphire wedding anniversary (65th).[191] On 18 December, she became the first British sovereign to attend a peacetime Cabinet meeting since George III in 1781.[192]  
  
The Queen, who opened the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, also opened the 2012 Summer Olympics and Paralympics in London, making her the first head of state to open two Olympic Games in two countries.[193] For the London Olympics, she played herself in a short film as part of the opening ceremony, alongside Daniel Craig as James Bond.[194] On 4 April 2013, she received an honorary BAFTA for her patronage of the film industry and was called "the most memorable Bond girl yet" at the award ceremony.[195]  
  
[196] Opening the Borders Railway on the day she became the longest-reigning British monarch, 2015. In her speech, she said she had never aspired to achieve that milestone.  
  
On 3 March 2013, Elizabeth stayed overnight at King Edward VII's Hospital as a precaution after developing symptoms of gastroenteritis.[197] A week later, she signed the new Charter of the Commonwealth.[198] Because of her age and the need for her to limit travelling, in 2013 she chose not to attend the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting for the first time in 40 years. She was represented at the summit in Sri Lanka by Prince Charles.[199] On 20 April 2018, the Commonwealth heads of government announced that she will be succeeded by Charles as Head of the Commonwealth, which she stated was her "sincere wish".[200] She underwent cataract surgery in May 2018.[201] In March 2019, she gave up driving on public roads, largely as a consequence of a car crash involving her husband two months earlier.[202]  
  
The Queen surpassed her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, to become the longest-lived British monarch on 21 December 2007, and the longest-reigning British monarch and longest-reigning queen regnant and female head of state in the world on 9 September 2015.[203][204][205] She became the oldest current monarch after King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia died on 23 January 2015.[206][207] She later became the longest-reigning current monarch and the longest-serving current head of state following the death of King Bhumibol of Thailand on 13 October 2016,[208][209] and the oldest current head of state on the resignation of Robert Mugabe on 21 November 2017.[210][211] On 6 February 2017, she became the first British monarch to commemorate a Sapphire Jubilee,[212] and on 20 November, she was the first British monarch to celebrate a platinum wedding anniversary.[213] Philip had retired from his official duties as the Queen's consort in August 2017.[214]  
  
COVID-19 pandemic  
  
On 19 March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United Kingdom, the Queen moved to Windsor Castle and sequestered there as a precaution.[215] Public engagements were cancelled and Windsor Castle followed a strict sanitary protocol nicknamed "HMS Bubble".[216] On 5 April, in a televised broadcast watched by an estimated 24 million viewers in the UK,[217] she asked people to "take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again."[218] On 8 May, the 75th anniversary of VE Day, in a TV broadcast at 9 p.m.—the exact time at which her father George VI had broadcast to the nation on the same day in 1945—she asked people to "never give up, never despair".[219] In October, she visited the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory in Wiltshire, her first public engagement since the start of the pandemic.[220] On 4 November, she appeared masked for the first time in public, during a private pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey, to mark the centenary of his burial.[221] In 2021, she received her first and second COVID-19 vaccinations in January and April respectively.[222][223]  
  
Prince Philip died on 9 April 2021, after 73 years of marriage, making Elizabeth the first British monarch to reign as a widow or widower since Queen Victoria.[224][225] She was reportedly at her husband's bedside when he died,[226] and remarked in private that his death had "left a huge void".[227] Due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place in England at the time, the Queen sat alone at Philip's funeral service, which evoked sympathy from people around the world.[228][229] In her Christmas broadcast that year, she paid a personal tribute to her "beloved Philip", saying, "That mischievous, inquiring twinkle was as bright at the end as when I first set eyes on him".[230][231]  
  
Despite the pandemic, the Queen attended the 2021 State Opening of Parliament in May,[232] and the 47th G7 summit in June.[233] On 5 July, the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the UK's National Health Service, she announced that the NHS will be awarded the George Cross to "recognise all NHS staff, past and present, across all disciplines and all four nations".[234] In October 2021, she began using a walking stick during public engagements for the first time since her operation in 2004.[235] Following an overnight stay in hospital on 20 October, visits to Northern Ireland,[236] the COP26 summit in Glasgow,[237] and the 2021 National Service of Remembrance were cancelled on health grounds.[238]  
  
Platinum Jubilee  
  
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee began on 6 February 2022, marking 70 years since she acceded to the throne on her father's death. She held a reception for pensioners, local Women's Institute members and charity volunteers on the eve of the date at Sandringham House.[239] In her Accession Day message, Elizabeth renewed her commitment to a lifetime of public service, which she had originally made in 1947.[240]  
  
Later that month, the Queen had "mild cold-like symptoms" and tested positive for COVID-19, along with some staff and family members.[241][242] She cancelled two virtual audiences on 22 February,[243] but held a phone conversation with Prime Minister Boris Johnson the following day amid a crisis on the Russian–Ukrainian border; Russia invaded Ukraine one day later,[244] following which she made a donation to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.[245] On 28 February, she was reported to have recovered and spent time with her family at Frogmore.[246] On 7 March, the Queen met Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at Windsor Castle, which was her first in-person engagement since her COVID diagnosis.[247] She later remarked that COVID infection leaves "one very tired and exhausted [...] it's not a nice result."[248]  
  
The Queen was unable to attend the annual Commonwealth Day service in March[249] and the Royal Maundy Service in April,[250] but she was present at a service of thanksgiving for Prince Philip at Westminster Abbey on 29 March.[251] She also missed the State Opening of Parliament for the first time in 59 years. (She did not attend in 1959 and 1963 as she was pregnant with Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, respectively.[252]) In her absence, Parliament was opened by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge as Counsellors of State.[253] On 17 May, the Queen officially opened the Elizabeth line in central London.[254]  
  
During the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Queen was largely confined to balcony appearances, and missed the National Service of Thanksgiving.[255] For the Jubilee concert, she took part in a sketch with Paddington Bear, that opened the event outside Buckingham Palace.[256] On 13 June 2022, the Queen became the second-longest reigning monarch in history, surpassing King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, with 70 years, 127 days reigned.[257]  
  
The Queen does not intend to abdicate,[258] though Prince Charles has taken on more of her duties as she has aged and carries out fewer public engagements.[259]  
  
Public perception and character  
  
Beliefs, activities and interests  
  
Elizabeth rarely gives interviews and little is known of her personal feelings. She has not explicitly expressed her own political opinions in a public forum, and it is against convention to ask or reveal her views. When Times journalist Paul Routledge asked the Queen for her opinions on the miners' strike of 1984–85, she replied that it was "all about one man" (a reference to Arthur Scargill), with which Routledge disagreed.[260] Widely criticised in the media for asking the question, Routledge said he was not initially due to be present for the royal visit and was unaware of the protocols.[260] After the 2014 Scottish independence referendum, Prime Minister David Cameron stated that the Queen was pleased with the outcome.[261] She had arguably issued a public coded statement about the referendum by telling one woman outside Balmoral Kirk that she hoped people would think "very carefully" about the outcome. It emerged later that Cameron had specifically requested that she register her concern.[262]  
  
Elizabeth has a deep sense of religious and civic duty, and takes her Coronation Oath seriously.[263] Aside from her official religious role as Supreme Governor of the established Church of England, she worships with that church and also the national Church of Scotland.[264] She has demonstrated support for inter-faith relations and has met with leaders of other churches and religions, including five popes: Pius XII, John XXIII, John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis.[265] A personal note about her faith often features in her annual Christmas Message broadcast to the Commonwealth. In 2000, she said:[266]  
  
To many of us, our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.  
  
Elizabeth is patron of more than 600 organisations and charities.[267] The Charities Aid Foundation estimated that Elizabeth has helped raise over £1.4 billion for her patronages during her reign.[268] Her main leisure interests include equestrianism and dogs, especially her Pembroke Welsh Corgis.[269] Her lifelong love of corgis began in 1933 with Dookie, the first corgi owned by her family.[270][271] Scenes of a relaxed, informal home life have occasionally been witnessed; she and her family, from time to time, prepare a meal together and wash the dishes afterwards.[272]  
  
Media depiction and public opinion  
  
In the 1950s, as a young woman at the start of her reign, Elizabeth was depicted as a glamorous "fairytale Queen".[273] After the trauma of the Second World War, it was a time of hope, a period of progress and achievement heralding a "new Elizabethan age".[274] Lord Altrincham's accusation in 1957 that her speeches sounded like those of a "priggish schoolgirl" was an extremely rare criticism.[275] In the late 1960s, attempts to portray a more modern image of the monarchy were made in the television documentary Royal Family and by televising Prince Charles's investiture as Prince of Wales.[276] Her wardrobe developed a recognisable, signature style driven more by function than fashion.[277] She dresses with an eye toward what is appropriate, rather than what is in vogue.[278] In public, she took to wearing mostly solid-colour overcoats and decorative hats, allowing her to be seen easily in a crowd.[279] Her wardrobe is handled by a team that includes five dressers, a dressmaker, and a milliner.[280]  
  
At the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, the crowds and celebrations were genuinely enthusiastic,[281] but, in the 1980s, public criticism of the royal family increased, as the personal and working lives of Elizabeth's children came under media scrutiny.[282] Her popularity sank to a low point in the 1990s. Under pressure from public opinion, she began to pay income tax for the first time, and Buckingham Palace was opened to the public.[283] Although support for republicanism in Britain seemed higher than at any time in living memory, republican ideology was still a minority viewpoint and the Queen herself had high approval ratings.[284] Criticism was focused on the institution of the monarchy itself, and the conduct of the Queen's wider family, rather than her own behaviour and actions.[285] Discontent with the monarchy reached its peak on the death of the former Princess of Wales, Diana, although Elizabeth's personal popularity—as well as general support for the monarchy—rebounded after her live television broadcast to the world five days after Diana's death.[286]  
  
Meeting children in Brisbane , Australia, October 1982  
  
In November 1999, a referendum in Australia on the future of the Australian monarchy favoured its retention in preference to an indirectly elected head of state.[287] Many republicans have credited Elizabeth's personal popularity with the survival of the monarchy in Australia. In 2010, Prime Minister Julia Gillard noted that there was a "deep affection" for the Queen in Australia and another referendum on the monarchy should wait until after her reign.[288] Gillard's successor, Malcolm Turnbull, who led the republican campaign in 1999, similarly believes that Australians would not vote to become a republic in her lifetime.[289] "She's been an extraordinary head of state", Turnbull said in 2021, "and I think frankly, in Australia, there are more Elizabethans than there are monarchists".[290] Similarly, referendums in both Tuvalu in 2008 and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2009 saw voters reject proposals to become republics.[291]  
  
Polls in Britain in 2006 and 2007 revealed strong support for the monarchy,[292] and in 2012, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year, her approval ratings hit 90 percent.[293] Her family came under scrutiny again in 2019 and the early 2020s due to her son Andrew's association with convicted sex offenders Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, his lawsuit with Virginia Giuffre amidst accusations of sexual impropriety, and her grandson Harry and his wife Meghan's exit from the monarchy and subsequent move to the United States.[294][295] Whilst not as universal as it once was, various polling suggested the popularity of the monarchy remained high in Great Britain during the Platinum Jubilee,[296] with the Queen's personal popularity remaining particularly strong.[297] As of 2021 she remained the third most admired woman in the world according to the annual Gallup poll, her 52 appearances on the list meaning she had been in the top ten more than any other woman in the poll's history.[298]  
  
Elizabeth has been portrayed in a variety of media by many notable artists, including painters Pietro Annigoni, Peter Blake, Chinwe Chukwuogo-Roy, Terence Cuneo, Lucian Freud, Rolf Harris, Damien Hirst, Juliet Pannett and Tai-Shan Schierenberg.[299][300] Notable photographers of Elizabeth have included Cecil Beaton, Yousuf Karsh, Anwar Hussein, Annie Leibovitz, Lord Lichfield, Terry O'Neill, John Swannell and Dorothy Wilding. The first official portrait photograph of Elizabeth was taken by Marcus Adams in 1926.[301]  
  
Finances  
  
Elizabeth's personal wealth has been the subject of speculation for many years. In 1971, Jock Colville, her former private secretary and a director of her bank, Coutts, estimated her wealth at £2 million (equivalent to about £30 million in 2021[302]).[303][304] In 1993, Buckingham Palace called estimates of £100 million "grossly overstated".[305] In 2002, she inherited an estate worth an estimated £70 million from her mother.[306] The Sunday Times Rich List 2020 estimated her personal wealth at £350 million, making her the 372nd richest person in the UK.[307] She was number one on the list when it began in the Sunday Times Rich List 1989, with a reported wealth of £5.2 billion, which included state assets that were not hers personally,[308] (approximately £13.8 billion in today's value).[302]  
  
The Royal Collection, which includes thousands of historic works of art and the Crown Jewels, is not owned personally but is described as being held in trust by the Queen for her successors and the nation,[309] as are her official residences, such as Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle,[310] and the Duchy of Lancaster, a property portfolio valued at £472 million in 2015.[311] The Paradise Papers, leaked in 2017, show that the Duchy of Lancaster held investments in the British tax havens of the Cayman Islands and Bermuda.[312] Sandringham House in Norfolk and Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire are personally owned by the Queen.[310] The Crown Estate – with holdings of £14.3 billion in 2019[313] – is held in trust and cannot be sold or owned by her in a personal capacity.[314]  
  
Titles, styles, honours, and arms  
  
Titles and styles  
  
21 April 1926 – 11 December 1936: Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth of York  
  
Princess Elizabeth of York 11 December 1936 – 20 November 1947: Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth  
  
The Princess Elizabeth 20 November 1947 – 6 February 1952: Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh  
  
The Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh Since 6 February 1952: Her Majesty The Queen  
  
Elizabeth has held many titles and honorary military positions throughout the Commonwealth, is sovereign of many orders in her own countries, and has received honours and awards from around the world. In each of her realms she has a distinct title that follows a similar formula: Queen of Jamaica and her other realms and territories in Jamaica, Queen of Australia and her other realms and territories in Australia, etc. In the Channel Islands and Isle of Man, which are Crown Dependencies rather than separate realms, she is known as Duke of Normandy and Lord of Mann, respectively. Additional styles include Defender of the Faith and Duke of Lancaster.  
  
When conversing with the Queen, the correct etiquette is to address her initially as Your Majesty and thereafter as Ma'am pronounced , with a short 'a' as in jam.[315]  
  
Arms  
  
From 21 April 1944 until her accession, Elizabeth's arms consisted of a lozenge bearing the royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom differenced with a label of three points argent, the centre point bearing a Tudor rose and the first and third a cross of St George.[316] Upon her accession, she inherited the various arms her father held as sovereign. The Queen also possesses royal standards and personal flags for use in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, and elsewhere.[317]  
  
Issue  
  
Ancestry  
  
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https://www.britannica.com/biography/Elizabeth-II  
TITLE: Elizabeth II | Biography, Family, Reign, & Facts  
META DESCRIPTION: Elizabeth II, in full Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, officially Elizabeth II, 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, (born April 21, 1926, London, England), queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from February 6, 1952. In 2015 she surpassed Victoria to become the longest-reigning monarch in British history. Elizabeth was the elder daughter of Prince Albert, duke of York, and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. As the child of a younger son of  
META KEYWORDS: Elizabeth II, encyclopedia, encyclopeadia, britannica, article,   
H1: Elizabeth II,   
H2: Early life, Accession to the throne, The modern monarchy,   
BOLD/STRONG: Britannica's Publishing Partner Program, Britannica's Publishing Partner Program, Elizabeth II, Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, Elizabeth II, 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,   
Italic: : verified, print, verified, (Show more), (Show more), (Show more), The Crown,   
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Summary  
  
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Elizabeth II, in full Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, officially Elizabeth II, 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, (born April 21, 1926, London, England), queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from February 6, 1952. In 2015 she surpassed Victoria to become the longest-reigning monarch in British history.  
  
  
https://www.royal.uk/her-majesty-the-queen  
TITLE: Her Majesty The Queen  
META DESCRIPTION: Queen Elizabeth II has ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history. Find out more about The Queen's life and reign.  
META KEYWORDS:   
H1: Her Majesty The Queen,   
H2: About Her Majesty The Queen, Early life and education, Marriage and family, Accession and Coronation, Jubilees and other milestones, Longest Reigning Monarch, The Queen's 90th birthday, The Sapphire Jubilee, Platinum Jubilee, Interests, Charities and Patronages, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers Regimental Association, 48th Highlanders of Canada, 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force, Aberdeen Association of Social Service (VSA), ABF The Soldiers' Charity, Adjutant General's Corps, Adjutant General's Corps Regimental Association, Air Force Association of Canada, Air Reserve of Canada, Anglo-Belgian Society, Pages, Celebrating The Queen's Official 90th Birthday, The Duke of Cambridge speaks at the Patron's Lunch, What is Trooping the Colour?, #Queenat90 celebrations, The Queen and the Royal Family mark Her Majesty's 90th Birthday, The Queen's 90th birthday: National Service of Thanksgiving, The Duke of Edinburgh, Buckingham Palace, The Queen's birthday parade, #HappyBirthdayYourMajesty: tributes pour in from across the Commonwealth and beyond ..., Her Majesty The Queen's Charities & Patronages, RoyalFamily, The Queen's birthday walkabout in Windsor, RoyalFamily, The Queen's birthday, Official photographs released for The Queen's 90th birthday, Downloadable image for The Queen's 90th Birthday, Annie Leibovitz images released, Celebrations begin on the eve of The Queen's 90th birthday, The Royal Mail celebrates #Queenat90, The Queen in Windsor: 90th birthday , Events to mark The Queen's 90th birthday, Send birthday wishes to The Queen, 90 photos for 90 years, RoyalFamily, Our Queen at 90, RoyalFamily, Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style from The Queen's Wardrobe, The Royal Week 16-22 July 2022, The Royal Week 9-15 July 2022, The Royal Week 2-8 July 2022, The Queen and Scotland, The Queen and Wales, The Queen and Northern Ireland, The Royal Week 11-17 June 2022, Holyrood Week 2022, The Royal Week 21-27 May 2022, The Royal Week 14-20 May 2022, Opening the Elizabeth Line, The Royal Week 7-13 May 2022, The Royal Week 30 April – 6 May 2022, Pages,   
BOLD/STRONG: Lord Wakehurst, the last British Governor of New South Wales, made three films about The Queen's Accession and Coronation entitled 'Long to reign over us':, The Imperial State Crown, worn by The Queen at the Coronation:, The Sapphire Jubilee, Despite her busy programme of engagements and duties as Head of State, The Queen manages to maintain hobbies and interests away from her official work. An animal lover since childhood, her greatest passions are for horses and dogs,   
Italic: :   
TEXT: About Her Majesty The Queen The Queen has ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe. Her extraordinary reign has seen her travel more widely than any other monarch, undertaking many historic overseas visits. Known for her sense of duty and her devotion to a life of service, she has been an important figurehead for the UK and the Commonwealth during times of enormous social change. Her Majesty continues to carry out a full programme of engagements, from visits to charities and schools, to hosting visiting Heads of State, to leading the nation in Remembrance and celebratory events - all supported by other members of the Royal Family. The Queen sees public and voluntary service as one of the most important elements of her work. The Queen has links - as Royal Patron or President - with over 600 charities, military associations, professional bodies and public service organisations. These vary from well-established international charities to smaller bodies working in a specialist area or on a local basis only. Her patronages and charities cover a wide range of issues, from opportunities for young people, to the preservation of wildlife and the environment. Having Her Majesty as Royal patron or president provides vital publicity for the work of these organisations, and allows their enormous achievements and contributions to society to be recognised. I think I speak for my generation when I say that the example and continuity provided by The Queen is not only very rare among leaders but a great source of pride and reassurance. The Duke of Cambridge Her Majesty supports and encourages achievement in all walks of life through the annual programme of Investitures (at which she presents members of the general public with their honours), Garden Parties, receptions and other awards given in her name, which allow her to say ‘thank you’ to all those who have contributed to the life of the nation and the Commonwealth. The Queen carries out all of her duties against the backdrop of a full personal life which has seen her raise four children and welcome grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren to the Royal Family. The Duke of Edinburgh was – in her own words – her ‘strength and stay’ during her reign, whilst other members of the Royal Family continue to offer vital support through their work in the UK and overseas.  
  
  
  
View this post on Instagram  
  
A post shared by The Royal Family (@theroyalfamily) In this section we look at Her Majesty’s extraordinary life and reign: from a young girl who did not expect to be Queen, to an iconic and celebrated figure who has ruled for more than 70 years.  
  
  
  
Early life and education When she was born in Mayfair in 1926, Princess Elizabeth (now The Queen) and her family did not expect that she would one day become Monarch. Her Royal Highness was expected to live a relatively normal, if privileged, life with her close-knit and loving family. But everything changed in December 1936 when her uncle – King Edward VIII - abdicated, leaving her father as King, and her as next in line to the throne. The Queen was born at 2.40am on 21 April 1926 at 17 Bruton Street in Mayfair, London. She was the first child of The Duke and Duchess of York - who later became King George VI - and Queen Elizabeth. She was christened Elizabeth Alexandra Mary at Buckingham Palace on 29 May that year. At the time she stood third in the line of succession to the throne after Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII), and her father, The Duke of York. The Princess was christened Elizabeth Alexandra Mary in the private chapel at Buckingham Palace. She was named after her mother, while her two middle names are those of her paternal great-grandmother, Queen Alexandra, and paternal grandmother, Queen Mary. Family life The Princess's early years were spent at 145 Piccadilly, the London house taken by her parents shortly after her birth, and at White Lodge in Richmond Park.  
  
  
  
View this post on Instagram  
  
A post shared by The Royal Family (@theroyalfamily) She also spent time at the country homes of her paternal grandparents, King George V and Queen Mary, and her mother's parents, the Earl and Countess of Strathmore. In 1930, Princess Elizabeth gained a sister, with the birth of Princess Margaret Rose. The family of four was very close. When she was six years old, her parents took over Royal Lodge in Windsor Great Park as their own country home. In the grounds of Royal Lodge Princess Elizabeth had her own small house, Y Bwthyn Bach (the Little Cottage), which was given to her by the people of Wales in 1932. Princess Elizabeth was now first in line to the throne, and a figure of even more intense public interest The Abdication of King Edward VIII Princess Elizabeth's quiet family life came to an end in 1936, when her grandfather, King George V, died. His eldest son came to the throne as King Edward VIII, but, before the end of the year, King Edward VIII had decided to give up the throne in order to marry the woman he loved, Mrs Wallis Simpson. Upon his abdication, Princess Elizabeth's father acceded to the throne as King George VI, and in 1937 the two Princesses attended their parents' Coronation in Westminster Abbey. Princess Elizabeth was now first in line to the throne, and a figure of even more intense public interest. The war years In 1940, at the height of the Blitz, the young Princesses were moved for their safety to Windsor Castle, where they spent most of the war years. https://www.youtube.com/watch" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen> It was a time of austerity and anxiety for the whole country, including the Royal Family. But at Christmas time there was a period of light relief when the young Princesses put on pantomimes with the children of members of staff for the enjoyment of her family and employees of the Royal Household. Education Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret were educated at home like many girls from wealthy families at that time. After her father succeeded to the throne in 1936 and Princess Elizabeth became heir presumptive (first in line to the throne), she started to study constitutional history and law as preparation for her future role. She received tuition from her father, as well as sessions with Henry Marten, the Vice-Provost of Eton. She was also instructed in religion by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Princess Elizabeth also learned French from a number of French and Belgian governesses. It is a skill which has stood The Queen in good stead, as she often has cause to use it when speaking to ambassadors and heads of state from French-speaking countries, and when visiting French-speaking areas of Canada. Princess Elizabeth also studied art and music, learned to ride, and became a strong swimmer. She won the Children's Challenge Shield at London's Bath Club when she was thirteen. Princess Elizabeth enrolled as a Girl Guide when she was eleven, and later became a Sea Ranger.  
  
  
  
Marriage and family The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh's enduring marriage saw them support each other through many years of Royal duties, and produced four children, eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Though the early years of their marriage saw them living a relatively normal life as a naval officer and wife, The Queen's Accession changed everything as Her Majesty took on her new role, and The Duke of Edinburgh a new status in support of her work. Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip first met when they attended the wedding of Prince Philip's cousin, Princess Marina of Greece to The Duke of Kent, who was an uncle of Princess Elizabeth, in 1934. Their engagement was announced on 9 July 1947 and the couple were married in Westminster Abbey on 20 November 1947. The event was fairly simple, as Britain was still recovering from the war, and Princess Elizabeth had to collect clothing coupons for her dress, like any other young bride. They spent their honeymoon at Broadlands, Hampshire, the home of Lord Mountbatten, and at Birkhall, Balmoral. In a letter from Princess Elizabeth's father, King George VI following the wedding, he wrote about his sadness at giving her away, and his joy at her evident happiness with Prince Philip: 'I was so proud of you & thrilled at having you so close to me on our long walk in Westminster Abbey, but when I handed your hand to the Archbishop I felt that I had lost something very precious. You were so calm & composed during the Service and said your words with such conviction, that I knew everything was all right ... I have watched you grow up all these years with pride under the skilful direction of Mummy, who, as you know is the most marvellous person in the World in my eyes, & I can, I know, always count on you, & now Philip, to help us in our work. Your leaving us has left a great blank in our lives but do remember that your old home is still yours & do come back to it as much & as often as possible. I can see that you are sublimely happy with Philip which is right but don't forget us is the wish of Your ever loving & devoted Papa' Family life Prince Charles, now The Prince of Wales, heir apparent to the throne, was born in 1948, and his sister, Princess Anne, now The Princess Royal, two years later.  
  
  
  
View this post on Instagram  
  
A post shared by The Royal Family (@theroyalfamily) Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip lived in Malta between 1949 and 1951, where Prince Philip was an officer in the Mediterranean Fleet. After Princess Elizabeth became Queen, their third child, Prince Andrew, arrived in 1960 and the fourth, Prince Edward, in 1964. Prince Andrew and Prince Edward were the first children to be born to a reigning monarch since Queen Victoria had her family. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh's grandchildren are Peter and Zara Phillips (b. 1977 and 1981); Prince William of Wales and Prince Henry of Wales (b. 1982 and 1984); Princess Beatrice of York and Princess Eugenie of York (b. 1988 and 1990); and The Lady Louise Windsor and Viscount Severn (b.2003 and 2007). Their great grandchildren are Savannah Phillips (b. 2010 and Isla Phillips (b. 2012), children of Peter and Autumn Phillips; Prince George (b. 2013), Princess Charlotte (b. 2015), and Prince Louis (b. 2018) children of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge; Mia Tindall (b.2014), Lena Tindall (b. 2018) and Lucas Tindall (b. 2021), children of Zara and Mike Tindall; Archie Mountbatten-Windsor (b. 2019) and Lilibet Mountbatten-Windsor (b. 2021), children of The Duke and Duchess of Sussex; and August Brooksbank (b. 2021), son of Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank. In 2015, The Duke of Cambridge wrote fondly of his grandmother in the preface to 'Elizabeth II: The Steadfast', a biography of The Queen by Lord Hurd: In 2007 The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh became the first couple in the Royal Family to celebrate their Diamond Wedding anniversary (60 years). During a speech at the lunch to mark their Golden Wedding at London's Guildhall in 1997 Her Majesty said of His Royal Highness: ‘He is someone who doesn't take easily to compliments. He has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years, and I, and his whole family, and this and many other countries, owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim or we shall ever know.’ Family life has remained an essential support to The Queen. The family usually spends Christmas together at Sandringham in Norfolk, attending church on Christmas Day. In 2002, her Golden Jubilee year, Her Majesty spoke of her family's support, especially following the recent deaths of her mother Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and her sister Princess Margaret: 'I take this opportunity to mention the strength I draw from my own family. The Duke of Edinburgh has made an invaluable contribution to my life over these past fifty years, as he has to so many charities and organisations with which he has been involved. We both have a special place in our hearts for our children. I want to express my admiration for The Prince of Wales and for all he has achieved for this country. Our children, and all my family, have given me such love and unstinting help over the years, and especially in recent months.' The Duke of Edinburgh as Consort The Duke of Edinburgh was a devoted companion or 'Consort' to The Queen in her official duties since she acceded the throne in 1952. In September of that year, shortly after her Accession to the throne, Her Majesty granted him precedence next to herself; and on 22 February 1957 she created him a Prince of the United Kingdom so that his title was from then on His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.  
  
  
  
View this post on Instagram  
  
A post shared by The Royal Family (@theroyalfamily) In 1953 The Duke of Edinburgh became the first peer to ‘do homage’ or pay his respects to The Queen at her Coronation, immediately after the Archbishops and Bishops.  
  
From 1967 he sat on a consort’s throne placed next to that of The Queen at the State Opening of Parliament. In 2009 The Duke of Edinburgh became the longest serving British consort, a distinction previously held by Queen Charlotte, George III’s consort.  
  
Accession and Coronation On 6 February 1952, King George VI died following a prolonged illness. Princess Elizabeth immediately acceded to the throne, becoming Queen Elizabeth II and taking on all of the responsibilities which came with her new title. Later in the year, the date was set for the Coronation at Westminster Abbey and preparations began for the spectacular ceremony. In 1952, King George VI's health was poor, and illness forced him to abandon a proposed Commonwealth tour. Princess Elizabeth, accompanied by Prince Philip, took his place. On Wednesday 6 February 1952, she received the news of her father's death and her own Accession to the throne while staying in a remote part of Kenya. In an instant, she had ceased to be Princess Elizabeth and became Queen Elizabeth II. Following the news, the tour was abandoned, and the young Princess flew back to Britain as Queen. She was greeted by Prime Minister Winston Churchill and other officials at the airport before returning to Clarence House, where the Royal Standard was flown for the first time in her reign. Lord Wakehurst, the last British Governor of New South Wales, made three films about The Queen's Accession and Coronation entitled 'Long to reign over us': https://www.youtube.com/watch" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen> https://www.youtube.com/watch" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen> https://www.youtube.com/watch" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen> The Coronation The Coronation took place in Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953. It was a solemn ceremony conducted by Dr Geoffrey Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury. The Imperial State Crown, worn by The Queen at the Coronation:  
  
  
  
View this post on Instagram  
  
A post shared by The Royal Family (@theroyalfamily) Representatives of the peers, the Commons and all the great public interests in Britain, the Prime Ministers and leading citizens of the other Commonwealth countries, and representatives of foreign states were present.  
  
  
  
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A post shared by The Royal Family (@theroyalfamily) Crowds of people viewed the procession all along the route, despite heavy rain. The ceremony was also broadcast on radio around the world and, at The Queen's request, on television for the first time. ​Television brought home to hundreds of thousands of people around the Commonwealth the splendour and significance of the Coronation in a way never before possible. Television brought home to hundreds of thousands of people around the Commonwealth the splendour and significance of the Coronation in a way never before possible. The Coronation was followed by drives through every part of London, a review of the fleet at Spithead, and visits to Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.  
  
  
  
Jubilees and other milestones The Queen’s reign has been punctuated by an unprecedented series of milestones. Her Majesty’s jubilees and birthdays have provided cause for celebration and reflection throughout the remarkable years since her Accession. Such events help reinforce the Sovereign's role as a focus for national identity and unity as people across the Commonwealth come together to mark an important occasion for their Head of State. The Silver Jubilee In 1977 The Queen's Silver Jubilee was marked with celebrations throughout the UK and Commonwealth. The actual anniversary of The Queen's Accession on 6 February 1952 was commemorated in church services throughout that month. The Queen spent the anniversary weekend at Windsor with her family and the full jubilee celebrations began in the summer of 1977. On 4 May, at the Palace of Westminster, both Houses of Parliament presented loyal addresses to The Queen, who in her reply stressed that the keynote of the jubilee was to be the unity of the nation. During the summer months The Queen embarked on a large scale tour, having decided that she wished to mark her jubilee by meeting as many of her people as possible. No other Sovereign had visited so much of Britain in the course of just three months - the six jubilee tours in the UK and Northern Ireland covered 36 counties. The home tours began in Glasgow on 17 May, with greater crowds than the city had ever seen before. The tours continued throughout England and Wales - in Lancashire over a million people turned out on one day - before culminating in a visit to Northern Ireland. Official overseas visits were also made to Western Samoa, Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, Fiji, Tasmania, Papua New Guinea, Canada and the West Indies. During the year it was estimated that The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh travelled 56,000 miles. The climax of the national celebrations came in early June. On the evening of Monday 6 June, The Queen lit a bonfire beacon at Windsor which started a chain of beacons across the country. On Tuesday 7 June, vast crowds saw The Queen drive in the Gold State Coach to St Paul's Cathedral for a Service of Thanksgiving attended by heads of state from around the world and former prime ministers of the UK. Afterwards The Queen and members of the Royal Family attended a lunch at the Guildhall, in which The Queen made a speech. She declared, 'My Lord Mayor, when I was twenty-one I pledged my life to the service of our people and I asked for God's help to make good that vow. Although that vow was made in my salad days, when I was green in judgement, I do not regret nor retract one word of it.' An estimated 500 million people watched on television as the procession returned down the Mall. Back at Buckingham Palace, The Queen made several balcony appearances. Street parties and village parties started up all over the country: in London alone 4,000 were reported to have been held. The final event of the central week of celebrations was a river progress down the Thames from Greenwich to Lambeth on Thursday 9 June, emulating the ceremonial barge trips of Elizabeth I. After The Queen had opened the Silver Jubilee Walkway and the new South Bank Jubilee Gardens, the journey ended with a firework display, and a procession of lighted carriages took The Queen back to Buckingham Palace for more balcony appearances to a cheering crowd. The Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal was set up in 1977, and gave the nation an opportunity to show its affection for Her Majesty and its gratitude for her dedicated service over 25 years. The Queen chose that the Appeal should focus on raising funds to support young people and, in particular, on encouraging and helping young people to serve others in the community. The Queen's Silver Jubilee Trust (now operating simply as The Queen's Trust) has made grants of over £80m, funding projects that help young people help others. Its emphasis is in education and personal development, in and out of school, in low-income communities across the UK. For more information, please visit www.thequeenstrust.org.uk The Golden Jubilee A packed programme of events took place in 2002 to celebrate fifty years of The Queen's reign. Six key Jubilee themes shaped events: Celebration, Community, Service, Past and future, Giving thanks and Commonwealth. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh undertook extensive tours of the Commonwealth and the UK, leading to an extraordinarily busy year for the royal couple. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness visited Jamaica, New Zealand, Australia and Canada as well as every region of the UK, from Falmouth in Cornwall to the Isle of Skye. The royal couple attended a dinner hosted by the Prime Minister at No 10 Downing Street and a session of the Joint Houses of Houses Parliament in Westminster Hall at which Her Majesty addressed both Houses. They also gave a dinner for representatives of the Armed Services at Windsor Castle and visited the Armed Forces in Portsmouth. Gratitude, respect and pride, these words sum up how I feel about the people of this country and the Commonwealth - and what this Golden Jubilee means to me. The Queen The central focus for the year was the Jubilee weekend in June 2002 which began with a classical music concert in the gardens at Buckingham Palace. There was a Jubilee Church Service at St George's Chapel in Windsor and a National Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral which followed a Ceremonial Procession from Buckingham Palace. Events culminated in a pop concert at Buckingham Palace with performers including Paul McCartney, Bryan Adams, Elton John and Shirley Bassey. The evening ended with a spectacular fireworks display and The Queen lighting the National Beacon, the last in a string of 2,006 beacons which had been lit in a chain across the Commonwealth. During a lunch at Guildhall, London, on 4 June 2002, Her Majesty made a speech in which she thanked the nation for their support throughout her reign: I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you - here in Guildhall, those of you waiting in the Mall and the streets of London, and all those up and down this country and throughout the Commonwealth, who may be watching this on television. Thank you all for your enthusiasm to mark and celebrate these past fifty years. The Queen’s 80th birthday The Queen turned 80 on 21 April 2006 and celebrated her official birthday on 17 June 2006. A number of events took place to celebrate the birthday, both around Her Majesty's actual birthday on 21 April and her official birthday on 17 June. A unique Children's Party at the Palace was held at Buckingham Palace to celebrate the magic of books. 2,000 children were invited, and a stage performance – during which The Queen made a cameo appearance – was broadcast live on the BBC. Trooping the Colour marked Her Majesty’s official birthday as it does every year, but to mark the special occasion, a spectacular flypast and a 'feu de joie' (fire of joy) were added to the traditional celebrations. Services of Thanksgiving were held at St George’s Chapel in Windsor and at St Paul's Cathedral, and the latter was followed by a lunch at Mansion House in London. The Queen celebrated with others of her generation who had similarly led a life of service and dedication at a 'Service over sixty' reception hosted by Her Majesty, which celebrated guests over the age of sixty who have made a significant contribution to national life, as did the Help the Aged Living Legends Awards at Windsor Castle. And on 19 April, guests celebrating their 80th birthdays on the same day as her were invited to Buckingham Palace. The Queen spent her actual birthday meeting the crowds on a walkabout in Windsor before attending a private family dinner at the newly restored Kew Palace, followed by a spectacular fireworks display. Her Majesty received almost 40,000 birthday messages from members of the public during her 80th birthday year. Diamond Wedding anniversary The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 20 November 2007. Events to mark the anniversary included a Service of Celebration at Westminster Abbey followed by the unveiling of a new Jubilee Walkway panoramic panel in Parliament Square. The couple also returned to the location of their honeymoon: Broadlands in Hampshire, home of Prince Philip’s uncle, Earl Mountbatten, to recreate the photographs which had been taken 60 years previously. The Diamond Jubilee The Diamond Jubilee was marked with a spectacular central weekend and a series of regional tours throughout the UK and Commonwealth. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh travelled as widely as possible across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, visiting every region during 2012 whilst other members of the Royal Family visited all of the Commonwealth realms (countries where The Queen is Head of State) between them. Visits included The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea and The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in Tuvalu. The central weekend began with The Queen’s visit to the Epsom Derby on the Saturday. On the Sunday, ‘Big Jubilee Lunches’ were held across the UK: building on the already popular ‘Big Lunch’ initiative, people were encouraged to share lunch with neighbours and friends as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant also took place on the Sunday, with up to 1,000 boats assembled on the Thames from across the UK, the Commonwealth and around the world. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh travelled in the Royal Barge which formed the centrepiece of the flotilla. On the Monday, a host of famous faces came together to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee against the backdrop of Buckingham Palace for a concert organised by Take That singer and songwriter Gary Barlow for the BBC. Performers included Will.i.am, Stevie Wonder, Grace Jones and Kylie Minogue. Following the concert, The Queen lit the National Beacon: one of a network of 2,012 Beacons which were lit by communities and individuals throughout the UK, Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Commonwealth. The Diamond Jubilee weekend culminated with a day of celebrations in central London, including a service at St Paul’s Cathedral followed by two receptions, a lunch at Westminster Hall, a Carriage Procession to Buckingham Palace and finally a Balcony appearance, Flypast, and Feu de Joie. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Trust was set up to take donations from those wishing to present a gift to Her Majesty in her Diamond Jubilee year. The funds raised have gone towards initiatives such as Queen's Young Leaders, which supports young people across the Commonwealth who are blazing a trail in their communities. Longest Reigning Monarch On 9th September 2015 The Queen became Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch. The day was treated as any other day as The Queen and Prince Philip travelled by steam train from Edinburgh to Tweedbank, where she formally opened the new Scottish Borders Railway, although she did refer to the milestone in her speech saying: Prince Philip and I are very grateful for the warmth of your welcome on this occasion. Many including you, First Minister, have also kindly noted another significance attaching to today, although it is not one to which I have ever aspired. Inevitably, a long life can pass by many milestones; my own is no exception. But I thank you all, and the many others at home and overseas, for your touching messages of great kindness. The Queen's 90th birthday The Queen celebrated her 90th birthday on 21 April 2016 and her official birthday on 11 June 2016, the second day of three days of national celebrations. Her Majesty's actual birthday was spent in Windsor where she meet well-wishers during a walkabout in the town centre and met others celebrating their 90th birthdays, before unveiling a plaque marking The Queen's Walkway. Later in the evening, Her Majesty, with The Prince of Wales, lit the principal beacon which set in train a series of over 900 beacons across the country and worldwide to celebrate her momentous milestone.  
  
  
  
View this post on Instagram  
  
A post shared by The Royal Family (@theroyalfamily) On June 10 2016 The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were joined by members of the Royal Family of a National Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral. Prayers at the service were led by people representing aspects of Her Majesty's life and role. Sir David Attenborough read Paddington Bear creator Michael Bond's personal account of growing up to be 90. On June 11 2016, The Queen's official birthday, Her Majesty was joined by members of her family at The Queen’s Birthday Parade on Horse Guards Parade, followed by an appearance on the balcony of Buckingham Palace with a Flypast, June 12 2016 saw a huge street party and parade take place on the Mall - The Patron's Lunch - a celebration of over 600 charities and organisations that The Queen was Patron of.  
  
  
  
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A post shared by The Royal Family (@theroyalfamily) The Duke of Cambridge paid tribute to his 'Granny', speaking of Her Majesty's strong health, relentless energy, her sharp wit and for being at the helm of her family, nation and Commonwealth. The Sapphire Jubilee 6 February 2017 marked 65 years since The Queen acceded to the throne, becoming the first British Monarch to mark their Sapphire Jubilee. To coincide with the occasion Buckingham Palace re-released a photograph of Her Majesty taken by David Bailey in 2014. In the photograph, The Queen is wearing a suite of sapphire jewellery given to her by King George VI as a wedding gift in 1947. As is usual on Accession Day, Her Majesty spent the day privately at Sandringham. Platinum Jubilee  
  
  
  
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A post shared by The Royal Family (@theroyalfamily) In 2022 The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. On 6 February - the 70th anniversary of her father's death and her own accession to the throne - The Queen renewed the promise she made on her 21st birthday: As we mark this anniversary, it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service. New photographs were released and The Queen held a small reception at Sandringham for members of the local branch of the Women's Institute.  
  
  
  
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A post shared by The Royal Family (@theroyalfamily) Events took place throughout the year, with initiatives launched to mark the unique milestone, including The Queen's Green Canopy.  
  
  
  
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A post shared by The Queen's Green Canopy (@queensgreencanopy) The celebrations culminated in a weekend of events which began with Trooping the Colour, and also included a service at St Paul's Cathedral, a spectacular concert at Buckingham Palace, a pageant down The Mall and thousands of Big Jubilee Lunches held across the country.  
  
  
  
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Interests Despite her busy programme of engagements and duties as Head of State, The Queen manages to maintain hobbies and interests away from her official work. An animal lover since childhood, her greatest passions are for horses and dogs ​  
  
The Queen takes a keen and highly knowledgeable interest in horses. She annually attends the Derby at Epsom, one of the classic flat races in Britain, and the Summer Race Meeting at Ascot, which has been a Royal occasion since 1911. As an owner and breeder of thoroughbreds, Her Majesty often visits other race meetings to watch her horses run, and also frequently attends equestrian events. The Queen's horses have won races at Royal Ascot on a number of occasions. There was a notable double on 18 June 1954 when Landau won the Rous Memorial Stakes and a stallion called Aureole won the Hardwicke Stakes, and in 1957 The Queen had four winners during Ascot week.  
  
  
  
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A post shared by The Royal Family (@theroyalfamily) The Queen also enjoys walking in the countryside and spending time with her dogs. For her eighteenth birthday, The Queen was given a Corgi named Susan from whom numerous successive dogs were bred. Some Corgis were mated with dachsunds (most notably Pipkin, who belonged to Princess Margaret) to create ‘Dorgis’, and Her Majesty has owned Corgis and Dorgis ever since. A lesser known interest is Scottish country dancing. Each year during her stay at Balmoral Castle, The Queen gives dances known as Gillies' Balls, for neighbours, estate and Castle staff and members of the local community.  
  
  
https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-56201331  
TITLE: UK Royal Family: Who is in it and what does the Queen do?  
META DESCRIPTION: What does the Royal Family do, and how will the Queen's Platinum Jubilee be celebrated?  
META KEYWORDS:   
H1: UK Royal Family: Who is in it and what does the Queen do?,   
H2: What is the Queen's Jubilee?, How popular is the monarchy?, When was the Queen crowned and what happens at coronation?, How many children and grandchildren does the Queen have? And how does succession work?, What does the Queen do? , Who else is in the Royal Family?, Where do members of the Royal Family live?, Related Topics, Top Stories, Features, Elsewhere on the BBC, Most Read, BBC News Services,   
BOLD/STRONG: The UK is having a four-day bank holiday weekend in June as part of celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee., Appointing a government, State opening and the Queen's Speech, Royal Assent, The Prince of Wales, Duchess of Cornwall, The Duke of Cambridge, Diana, Princess of Wales, Duchess of Cambridge , Prince George, Princess Charlotte, Prince Louis, The Princess Royal , The Earl of Wessex, Countess of Wessex , The Duke of Sussex , Duchess of Sussex , The Duke of York , Duchess of York,   
Italic: :   
TEXT: UK Royal Family: Who is in it and what does the Queen do? Published 1 June  
  
Image source, PA Media  
  
The UK is having a four-day bank holiday weekend in June as part of celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.  
  
In February, the Queen became the longest-serving British monarch, and the first to reach 70 years on the throne.  
  
Queen Elizabeth II has been the UK's head of state since 1952, when her father King George VI died. She is also the head of state for 15 Commonwealth countries.  
  
What is the Queen's Jubilee?  
  
The Queen was born on 21 April 1926 but she celebrates two birthdays every year. The second is the day the official celebrations take place and is usually on the second Saturday in June. This started with her great-grandfather Edward VII, who was born in November, to make it more likely that there would be good weather for a public celebration.  
  
This year's jubilee will be the Queen's fourth - she celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1977, her Golden Jubilee in 2002 and her Diamond Jubilee in 2012.  
  
There are several events planned throughout the year, but the main celebrations are during June's four-day bank holiday weekend, and include a special Trooping of the Colour, a concert outside Buckingham Palace, and a pageant.  
  
Thousands of street parties will be held across the country. Pubs, bars and nightclubs will also be able to stay open until 01:00 BST.  
  
As part of the opening celebrations for the Jubilee, the Queen will be joined by members of her family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace on 2 June.  
  
The Palace has confirmed that Prince Harry and Prince Andrew will not be present as it will only be for "members of the Royal Family who are currently undertaking official public duties".  
  
Image source, Getty Images Image caption, Many street parties were held to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012  
  
How popular is the monarchy?  
  
Last year, two Ipsos Mori polls gave broadly similar results, with only one in five believing that abolishing the monarchy would be good for the UK.  
  
However, the YouGov poll suggested that there had been a decline in those in favour of the monarchy in the past decade, from 75% in 2012, to 62% now.  
  
While there was majority support for the monarchy among older age groups, the poll indicated this might not be true for younger people.  
  
In 2011, when YouGov first started tracking the issue, 59% of 18 to 24-year-olds thought the monarchy should continue, compared with 33% today.  
  
When was the Queen crowned and what happens at coronation?  
  
When a monarch dies, the heir immediately becomes king or queen. The coronation is the ceremony at which the monarch is formally crowned. It takes place after a period of mourning for the previous sovereign.  
  
Elizabeth II was crowned on 2 June 1953. Her coronation was the first to be broadcast live on TV. More than 20 million people tuned in.  
  
The central elements of the ceremony have barely changed for hundreds of years. The coronation is performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The monarch is anointed with "holy oil", receives the orb and sceptre - symbols of royalty - and is crowned with the St Edward's Crown, the centrepiece of the Crown Jewels.  
  
Image source, PA Media Image caption, More than 20 million people watched the Queen's coronation on television on 2 June, 1953.  
  
How many children and grandchildren does the Queen have? And how does succession work?  
  
The Queen was married to her late husband, Prince Philip, who died in April 2021, for more than 73 years. They had four children, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Prince Charles is her first-born, followed by Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward.  
  
The order of succession sets out which member of the Royal Family takes over as monarch when the existing one dies or abdicates. First in line - the heir to the throne - is the monarch's first-born child.  
  
Royal succession rules were amended in 2013 to ensure that sons no longer take precedence over their older sisters.  
  
Prince Charles is the Queen's heir. His eldest son, Prince William, is second in line, and William's eldest child, Prince George, is third.  
  
Prince Charles would act as "regent" if his mother was not able to perform due to ill-health. This means he would take on the role of the monarch, without officially taking the position.  
  
What does the Queen do?  
  
The Queen is a constitutional monarch - while she is the head of state, her powers are symbolic and ceremonial, and she remains politically neutral.  
  
She receives daily dispatches from the government in a red leather box, such as briefings ahead of important meetings or documents that need her signature.  
  
There have been 14 UK prime ministers during her reign. The prime minister usually meets the Queen on a Wednesday at Buckingham Palace to keep her informed on government matters.  
  
There is no official record of what is said. It is completely private. She also performs a number of Parliamentary functions:  
  
Appointing a government - the leader of the party that wins a general election is invited to Buckingham Palace, where they are formally invited to form a government. The Queen also formally dissolves a government before a general election  
  
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- the Queen begins the Parliamentary year with the State Opening ceremony, during which she sets out the government's policy plans, in a speech delivered from the throne in the House of Lords. Prince Charles delivered the 2022 Queen's Speech on her behalf Royal Assent - when a piece of legislation is passed through Parliament, it must be formally approved by the Queen in order to become law. The last time Royal Assent was refused was in 1708  
  
Image source, Getty Images Image caption, The Queen and Prince Charles attend the 2019 State Opening of Parliament  
  
Apart from those, the Queen has regular audiences with the prime minister and members of the Privy Council, hosts visiting heads of state, and meets foreign ambassadors and high commissioners based in the UK. She also normally leads the annual Remembrance event at the Cenotaph in London.  
  
The Queen is Royal Patron or president of more than 600 charities, military associations, professional bodies and public service organisations.  
  
Who else is in the Royal Family?  
  
Image source, PA Media Image caption, Members of the Royal Family celebrated the Queen's official birthday at Buckingham Palace in 2019.  
  
The Prince of Wales (Prince Charles) is the Queen's eldest child and will become king after her death. He is married to the Duchess of Cornwall (Camilla)  
  
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Where do members of the Royal Family live?  
  
The Queen's official London residence is Buckingham Palace, but in March 2022, it was reported that Windsor Castle in Berkshire would become her permanent home.  
  
The Queen's other properties include Sandringham House in Norfolk and Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire.  
  
Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall live in Clarence House in London and at Highgrove in Gloucestershire.  
  
  
https://twitter.com/RoyalFamily?ref\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor  
TITLE:   
META DESCRIPTION:   
META KEYWORDS:   
H1: JavaScript is not available.,   
H2:   
BOLD/STRONG:   
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TEXT: JavaScript is not available.  
  
We’ve detected that JavaScript is disabled in this browser. Please enable JavaScript or switch to a supported browser to continue using twitter.com. You can see a list of supported browsers in our Help Center.  
  
Help Center  
  
  
https://www.architecturaldigest.com/gallery/70-photos-queen-of-england  
TITLE: 70 Photos of The Queen of England In Honor of Her Platinum Jubilee  
META DESCRIPTION: Queen Elizabeth II has sat on the throne for seven decades—look back at her reign both inside and outside the palace walls  
META KEYWORDS: ad, buckingham palace, kensington palace, queen elizabeth ii, prince william, princess diana, prince harry, meghan markle, kate middleton,   
H1: 70 Photos of The Queen of England In Honor of Her Platinum Jubilee,   
H2:   
BOLD/STRONG:   
Italic: : The Great Pottery Throw Down, Town & Country, The Crown, ., The New York Times, Kramer vs. Kramer, Royal Yacht Britannia, The New York Times, Royal Yacht Britannia, The Crown, Architectural Digest,   
TEXT: Celebrations are officially underway as the Queen of England marks her Platinum Jubilee. At 96 years old, Queen Elizabeth II has sat on the British throne for 70 years and is the longest-reigning monarch in the history of the United Kingdom.  
  
The momentous occasion means a variety of large-scale events will draw eyes from all over the world throughout the weekend, but such a rare anniversary is also the perfect opportunity to look back at the past. Throughout her reign, Queen Elizabeth II has traveled the globe, mingled with world leaders and celebrities, and navigated family life in the public eye.  
  
“I continue to be inspired by the goodwill shown to me, and hope that the coming days will provide an opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved during the last 70 years, as we look to the future with confidence and enthusiasm,” the monarch said, in part, in a recently-released statement. Below, we look back at moments from each year of her reign that show every side of her life on the throne, from her royal tours and official engagements to private time spent at her castles and palaces.  
  
  
https://www.biography.com/royalty/queen-elizabeth-ii  
TITLE: Queen Elizabeth II  
META DESCRIPTION: Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain is the longest-reigning monarch in British history. She celebrated 70 years on the throne in June 2022 with her Platinum Jubilee.  
META KEYWORDS:   
H1: Queen Elizabeth II,   
H2: Quick Facts, Who Is Queen Elizabeth II?, Early Life, PHOTOS: Elizabeth's Royal Childhood & Life Before Becoming Queen, Ascension to the Crown, PHOTOS: Queen Elizabeth II's Historical Coronation, Coronation, Husband Prince Philip, Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren, Family Tree, PHOTOS: The British Royal Family Tree: 10 Members in Line to Succeed the Throne, Reign, READ NEXT, Pedro Pascal, Oscar Isaac, James Beard, Relationship With Prime Ministers, Threats to Queen Elizabeth and the Royal Family, PHOTOS: Queen Elizabeth in the Military, Tabloid Scandals, Personal Losses, Diamond Jubilee, Sapphire Jubilee, Hobbies, Fact Check, Citation Information, BIOGRAPHY NEWSLETTER, MORE STORIES FROM BIOGRAPHY, Queen Mother Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth I, Prince Philip, Catherine the Great, Mary, Queen of Scots, Edward, Earl of Wessex, Prince Andrew, Elizabeth Taylor,   
BOLD/STRONG: DOWNLOAD BIOGRAPHY'S QUEEN ELIZABETH II FACT CARD,   
Italic: : About, Contact Us, Advertise, Privacy Notice, Terms of Use, Copyright Policy, Ad Choices, Accessibility Support, Privacy Settings,   
TEXT: Who Is Queen Elizabeth II?  
  
Queen Elizabeth II became queen on February 6, 1952, and was crowned on June 2, 1953. She is the mother of Prince Charles, heir to the throne, as well as the grandmother of Princes William and Harry. As the longest-serving monarch in British history, she has tried to make her reign more modern and sensitive to a changing public while maintaining traditions associated with the crown.  
  
Early Life  
  
Queen Elizabeth II was born Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary on April 21, 1926, in London, to Prince Albert, Duke of York (later known as King George VI), and Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.  
  
At the time of her birth, most people did not realize Elizabeth would someday become the queen of Great Britain. Elizabeth, nicknamed Lilibet, got to enjoy the first decade of her life with all the privileges of being a royal without the pressures of being the heir apparent.  
  
Elizabeth’s father and mother divided their time between a home in London and Royal Lodge, the family's home on the grounds of Windsor Great Park. Elizabeth and her younger sister Margaret were educated at home by tutors. Academic courses included French, mathematics and history, along with dancing, singing and art lessons.  
  
With the outbreak of World War II in 1939, Elizabeth and her sister largely stayed out of London, having been relocated to Windsor Castle. From there she made the first of her famous radio broadcasts in 1940, with this particular speech reassuring the children of Britain who had been evacuated from their homes and families. The 14-year-old princess, showing her calm and firm personality, told them "that in the end, all will be well; for God will care for us and give us victory and peace."  
  
Elizabeth soon started taking on other public duties. Appointed colonel-in-chief of the Grenadier Guards by her father, Elizabeth made her first public appearance inspecting the troops in 1942. She also began to accompany her parents on official visits within Britain.  
  
In 1945, Elizabeth joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service to help in the war effort. She trained side-by-side with other British women to be an expert driver and mechanic. While her volunteer work only lasted a few months, it offered Elizabeth a glimpse into a different, non-royal world. She had another vivid experience outside of the monarchy when she and Margaret were allowed to mingle anonymously among the citizenry on Victory in Europe Day.  
  
PHOTOS: Elizabeth's Royal Childhood & Life Before Becoming Queen 13 Gallery 13 Images  
  
Ascension to the Crown  
  
When Elizabeth’s grandfather George V died in 1936, his eldest son (Elizabeth’s uncle) became King Edward VIII. Edward, however, was in love with American divorcée Wallis Simpson, and had to choose between the crown and his heart. In the end, Edward chose Simpson and abdicated the crown.  
  
The event changed the course of her life, making her the heir presumptive to the British crown. Her father was crowned King George VI in 1937, taking on the name George to emphasize continuity with his father. Her mother became Queen Elizabeth; on King George's death in 1952, she became Queen Mother and her daughter became Queen Elizabeth II.  
  
PHOTOS: Queen Elizabeth II's Historical Coronation 10 Gallery 10 Images  
  
Coronation  
  
Elizabeth was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, in Westminster Abbey, at the age of 25.  
  
Elizabeth had assumed the responsibilities of the ruling monarch on February 6, 1952, when her father, King George VI, died. For the first time ever, the coronation ceremony was broadcast on television, allowing people from across the globe to witness the pomp and spectacle of the event.  
  
Husband Prince Philip  
  
Elizabeth married her distant cousin Philip Mountbatten (a surname adopted from his mother's side) on November 20, 1947, at London's Westminster Abbey.  
  
Elizabeth first met Philip, son of Prince Andrew of Greece, when she was only 13. She was smitten with him from the start. The two kept in touch over the years and eventually fell in love.  
  
They made an unusual pair. Elizabeth was quiet and reserved while Philip was boisterous and outspoken. Her father, King George VI, was hesitant about the match because, while Mountbatten had ties to both the Danish and Greek royal families, he didn't possess great wealth and was considered by some to have a rough personality.  
  
At the time of their wedding, Great Britain was still recovering from the ravages of World War II, and Elizabeth collected clothing coupons to get fabric for her gown.  
  
The family took on the name Windsor, a move pushed by her mother and Prime Minister Winston Churchill which caused tension with her husband. In 1960, she reversed course, issuing orders that her descendants who did not carry royal titles (or needed last names for legal purposes such as weddings) would use the surname Mountbatten-Windsor. Over the years, Philip inspired numerous public relations headaches with his off-the-cuff, controversial comments and rumors of possible infidelities.  
  
Philip passed away on April 9, 2021, at age 99.  
  
Children  
  
Elizabeth and Philip wasted no time in producing an heir: Son Charles was born in 1948, the year after their wedding, and daughter Anne arrived in 1950. Elizabeth had two more children — sons Andrew and Edward — in 1960 and 1964, respectively.  
  
In 1969, she officially made Charles her successor by granting him the title of Prince of Wales. Hundreds of millions of people tuned in to see the ceremony on television.  
  
In 1981 32-year-old Charles wed 19-year-old Diana Spencer (best known as Princess Diana), with later rumors surfacing that he was pressured into the marriage from his family. The wedding drew enormous crowds in the streets of London and millions watched the proceedings on television. Public opinion of the monarchy was especially strong at that time.  
  
Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren  
  
Charles and Diana gave birth to Elizabeth’s grandsons Prince William, who was created Duke of Cambridge upon his own marriage in 2011, second-in-line to the throne, in 1982, and Prince Harry in 1984. Elizabeth has emerged as a devoted grandmother to William and Harry. Prince William has said that she offered invaluable support and guidance as he and Kate Middleton planned their 2011 wedding.  
  
On July 22, 2013, Elizabeth's grandson William and his wife Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge, welcomed their first child, George Alexander Louis — a successor to the throne known officially as "His Royal Highness Prince George of Cambridge."  
  
On May 2, 2015, William and Kate welcomed their second child, Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana, the queen's fifth great-grandchild. On April 23, 2018, they followed with their third child, Prince Louis Arthur Charles.  
  
On May 6, 2019, Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and his wife, Meghan Markle, gave the queen another great-grandchild with the birth of their son, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor.  
  
In addition to Prince William and Prince Harry, the queen’s other grandchildren are Peter Phillips, Princess Beatrice of York; Princess Eugenie of York; Zara Tindall; Lady Louise Windsor; and James, Viscount Severn. She is also a great-grandmother to 10.  
  
  
  
Family Tree  
  
Elizabeth II’s father and mother were known as the Duke and Duchess of York. Her father, Prince Albert, Duke of York, was the second son of Queen Mary and King George V. Her mother was Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.  
  
Elizabeth has ties with most of the monarchs in Europe. Her British ancestors include Queen Victoria (ruled 1837 to 1901) and King George III (ruled 1760 to 1820).  
  
PHOTOS: The British Royal Family Tree: 10 Members in Line to Succeed the Throne 11 Gallery 11 Images  
  
Reign  
  
Elizabeth's long and mainly peaceful reign has been marked by vast changes in her people's lives, in her country's power, how Britain is viewed abroad and how the monarchy is regarded and portrayed. As a constitutional monarch, Elizabeth does not weigh in on political matters, nor does she reveal her political views. However, she confers regularly with her prime ministers.  
  
When Elizabeth became queen, post-war Britain still had a substantial empire, dominions and dependencies. However, during the 1950s and 1960s, many of these possessions achieved independence and the British Empire evolved into the Commonwealth of Nations. Elizabeth II has thus made visits to other countries as head of the Commonwealth and a representative of Britain, including a groundbreaking trip to Germany in 1965. She became the first British monarch to make a state visit there in more than five decades.  
  
During the 1970s and 1980s, Elizabeth continued to travel extensively. In 1973 she attended the Commonwealth Conference in Ottawa, Canada, and in 1976 traveled to the United States for the 200th anniversary celebration of America’s independence from Britain. More than a week later she was in Montreal, Canada, to open the Summer Olympics. In 1979, she traveled to Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, which garnered international attention and widespread respect.  
  
In 1982, Elizabeth worried about her second son, Prince Andrew, who served as a helicopter pilot in the British Royal Navy during the Falklands War. Britain went to war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands, a clash that lasted for several weeks. While more than 250 British soldiers died in the conflict, Prince Andrew returned home safe and well, much to his mother's relief.  
  
In 2011, Elizabeth showed that the crown still had symbolic and diplomatic power when she became the first British monarch to visit the Republic of Ireland since 1911 (when all of Ireland was still part of the United Kingdom).  
  
As queen, Elizabeth has modernized the monarchy, dropping some of its formalities and making certain sites and treasures more accessible to the public. As Britain and other nations struggled financially, Britain abolished the Civil List in 2012, which was a public funding system of the monarchy dating back roughly 250 years. The royal family continues to receive some government support, but the queen has had to cut back on spending.  
  
Despite the occasional call to step aside for Charles, Elizabeth remained steadfast in her royal obligations as she passed her 90th birthday. She continued making more than 400 engagements per year, maintaining her support of hundreds of charitable organizations and programs.  
  
However, in late 2017 the monarchy took what was considered a major step toward transitioning to the next generation: On November 12, Charles handled the traditional Remembrance Sunday duty of placing a wreath at the Cenotaph war memorial, as the queen watched from a nearby balcony.  
  
In August 2019, Elizabeth made a rare intrusion into political matters when she agreed to a request by Prime Minister Boris Johnson to prorogue (suspend) Parliament until October 14, less than three weeks before Britain's planned departure from the European Union.  
  
Relationship With Prime Ministers  
  
Elizabeth has had 14 prime ministers placed into power during her reign, with queen and PM having a weekly, confidential meeting. (Elizabeth has also met about a quarter of all the U.S. presidents in history, most recently receiving Donald Trump for a state visit in June 2019.)  
  
She enjoyed a father-figure relationship with the iconic Winston Churchill and was later able to loosen up a bit and be somewhat informal with Labour leaders Harold Wilson and James Callaghan. In contrast, she and Margaret Thatcher had a very formal, distant relationship, with the PM tending to be a grating lecturer to the queen on a variety of issues.  
  
Tony Blair saw certain concepts around the monarchy as somewhat outdated, though he did appreciate Elizabeth making a public statement after the death of Diana.  
  
Later, Conservative leader David Cameron, who is Elizabeth's fifth cousin removed, enjoyed a warm rapport with the queen. He apologized in 2014 for revealing in a conversation that she was against the Scottish referendum to seek independence from Great Britain.  
  
Theresa May was described as being tight-lipped about Brexit plans to leave the European Union, with a rumor circulating that Elizabeth was perturbed over not being informed about future exit strategies.  
  
Threats to Queen Elizabeth and the Royal Family  
  
Elizabeth has worked tirelessly to protect the image of the monarchy and to prepare for its future. But she has seen the monarchy come under attack during her lifetime. The once-revered institution has weathered a number of storms, including death threats against the royal family.  
  
In 1979, Elizabeth suffered a great personal loss when Lord Mountbatten, her husband's uncle, died in a terrorist bombing. Mountbatten and several members of his family were aboard his boat on August 27th, off the west coast of Ireland, when the vessel exploded. He and three others, including one of his grandsons, were killed. The IRA (Irish Republican Army), which opposed British rule in Northern Ireland, took responsibility for the attack.  
  
In June 1981, Elizabeth herself had a dangerous encounter. She was riding in the Trooping the Colour, a special military parade to celebrate her official birthday, when a man in the crowd pointed a gun at her. He fired, but, fortunately, the gun was loaded with blanks. Other than receiving a good scare, the queen was not hurt.  
  
Elizabeth had an even closer call the following year when an intruder broke into Buckingham Palace and confronted her in her bedroom. When the press got wind of the fact that Prince Philip was nowhere to be seen during this incident, they speculated about the state of the royal marriage.  
  
PHOTOS: Queen Elizabeth in the Military 5 Gallery 5 Images  
  
Tabloid Scandals  
  
The marriage of Elizabeth’s son, Charles, to Diana made headlines for years before the couple announced their separation in 1992, followed by their formal divorce in 1996. In the wake of Diana's death in a Paris car crash on August 31, 1997, Elizabeth experienced intense media scrutiny. Her incredibly popular ex-daughter-in-law had been called the “People's Princess.”  
  
The queen was at her Balmoral estate in Scotland with Charles and his and Diana's two sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, at the time. For days, Elizabeth remained silent while the country mourned Diana's passing, and she was sharply criticized for her lack of response.  
  
Stories circulated that the queen did not want to give Diana a royal funeral, which only fueled public sentiment against the monarch. Nearly a week after Diana's death, Elizabeth returned to London and issued a statement on the late princess.  
  
Elizabeth also initially objected to the relationship between her son Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles. Charles and Camilla had dated years before he met his family, but the relationship ended under family pressure, only to resume during Charles and Diana’s marriage. Known to be a stickler for ceremony and tradition, she eventually started to show signs of softening her stance over the years. When Charles and Camilla wed in 2005, Elizabeth and Prince Philip did not attend the civil ceremony but attended a religious blessing and held a reception in their honor at Windsor Castle.  
  
In 1992, another of Elizabeth’s children, Prince Andrew, ended up in the tabloids, after photos emerged of his wife Sarah Ferguson and another man engaged in romantic activity. The couple divorced soon after.  
  
In November 2017, the media reported the queen had some $13 million invested in offshore accounts. The news came following the leak of the so-called "Paradise Papers" to a German newspaper, which shared the documents with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.  
  
The Duchy of Lancaster, which holds assets for the queen, confirmed that some of its investments were overseas accounts, but insisted they were all legitimate.  
  
Also in 2017, the former owner of the lingerie company Rigby & Peller, which had serviced Elizabeth for more than 50 years, wrote a tell-all autobiography that included some of her experiences with the royal family. Although the author insisted that "the book doesn’t contain anything naughty," the queen responded in early 2018 by revoking Rigby & Peller's royal warrant.  
  
In 2019, following years of scandal surrounding his controversial business pursuits and friendship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, Prince Andrew was forced to step down from public duties, following a media firestorm.  
  
Just weeks later, in January 2020, the family again found themselves in the spotlight, following the bombshell decision by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex to step away from their roles as senior royals.  
  
Personal Losses  
  
After the start of the 21st century, Elizabeth experienced two great losses. She said goodbye to both her sister Margaret and her mother in 2002, the same year she celebrated her Golden Jubilee, or 50th year on the throne.  
  
Margaret, known for being more of an adventurous soul than other royals and who was barred from marrying an early love, died in February after suffering a stroke. Only a few weeks later, Elizabeth's mother, known as the Queen Mother, died at Royal Lodge on March 30th at the age of 101.  
  
Diamond Jubilee  
  
Elizabeth celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 2012, marking 60 years as queen. As part of the jubilee festivities, a special BBC concert was held on June 4th featuring the likes of Shirley Bassey, Paul McCartney, Tom Jones, Stevie Wonder and Kylie Minogue. Elizabeth was surrounded by family at this historic event, including her husband Philip, son Charles and grandsons Harry and William.  
  
On September 9, 2015, she surpassed her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria as Britain's longest-ruling monarch, who reigned for 63 years.  
  
Sapphire Jubilee  
  
On February 6, 2017, the queen celebrated 65 years on the throne, the only British monarch to ever celebrate her Sapphire Jubilee. The date also marks the anniversary of the death of her father. The queen chose to spend the day quietly at Sandringham, her country estate north of London, where she attended a church service.  
  
In London, there were royal gun salutes at Green Park and at the Tower of London to mark the occasion. The Royal Mint also issued eight new commemorative coins in honor of the queen's Sapphire Jubilee.  
  
Hobbies  
  
For much of her life, the queen has surrounded herself with dogs. She is especially known for her love of corgis, owning more than 30 descendants of the first corgi she received as a teenager, until the death of the final one, Willow, in 2018.  
  
Elizabeth is also a horse enthusiast who bred thoroughbreds and attended racing events for many years.  
  
Not one for the spotlight, Elizabeth likes quiet pastimes. She enjoys reading mysteries, working on crossword puzzles and, reportedly, even watching wrestling on television.  
  
  
https://www.rct.uk/discover/school-resources/platinum-jubilee/role-of-our-queen  
TITLE: What is the role of our Queen?  
META DESCRIPTION: The Sovereign acts as a focus for national identity, unity and pride; gives a sense of stability and continuity; officially recognises success and excellence; and supports the ideal of voluntary service.  
META KEYWORDS:   
H1: What is the role of our Queen?,   
H2:   
BOLD/STRONG:   
Italic: : Historic England, The National Archives,   
TEXT: Queen Elizabeth II is the longest reigning monarch in British history, having reigned for 70 years.  
  
The Queen is a constitutional monarch, meaning that, whilst the Sovereign is Head of State, it is an elected Parliament that can make and pass legislation, rather than the monarch.  
  
The Queen still has a very important part to play in the life of the nation, undertaking constitutional and representational duties and she carries out a busy programme of engagements, including visiting charities (for a number of which she acts as Royal Patron or President), hosting visiting Heads of State, or taking part in annual programmes of investitures, garden parties, receptions and other ceremonies.  
  
Explore the Platinum Jubilee Story Map, created by Historic England, to discover some of the places across England that The Queen has visited during her reign. These may include historic buildings and locations local to your school.  
  
Known for her sense of duty and her devotion to a life of service, she has been a figurehead for the UK and the Commonwealth during times of enormous change. Her roles are both important and wide-ranging and she is supported in her work by members of the Royal Family.  
  
A film has been created telling the story of Elizabeth II’s 70 years as Queen using genuine historical sources from The National Archives and The Royal Collection. It includes music and some original footage from the period.  
  
  
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2022/queen-elizabeth-jubilee-reign-photos/  
TITLE: Queen Elizabeth II: A visual timeline of her 70 years on the throne  
META DESCRIPTION: Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II is celebrating a record 70 years on the throne. Here are some key moments from her long reign and life.  
META KEYWORDS:   
H1: Queen Elizabeth II: A visual timeline of her 70 years on the throne,   
H2:   
BOLD/STRONG:   
Italic: :   
TEXT: LONDON — Monarch since age 25, she has been served by 14 British prime ministers and met with 13 U.S. presidents. She has presided over the shrinking of the British Empire and the rise of globalization. She has anchored the country through uncertainty — and the royal family’s own dramas.  
  
As Britain this week celebrates Queen Elizabeth II’s 70 years on the throne, here are some key moments from her long reign and life.  
  
1947  
  
Elizabeth dedicates her life to public service  
  
Princess Elizabeth broadcasts remarks from Cape Town, South Africa, on her 21st birthday, on April 21, 1947. (AP)  
  
Princess Elizabeth was on a tour of South Africa, part of the British Empire at the time, when she turned 21 and made one of her earliest public addresses. “I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong,” she said in a speech broadcast on the radio from Cape Town.  
  
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1953  
  
Coronation  
  
Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Philip, wave from Buckingham Palace on her coronation day, June 2, 1953. (Getty Images)  
  
Elizabeth’s path to the throne was hastened by the abdication of her uncle and the early death of her father, King George VI. She became queen in February 1952, at age 25, and was 27 at the time of her official coronation in June 1953.  
  
The event was televised for the first time — a decision encouraged by her husband, Philip, that would catapult the royal family into people’s homes for decades to come. Millions in Britain and around the world watched the BBC broadcast from Westminster Abbey.  
  
“Although my experience is so short and my task so new, I have in my parents and grandparents an example which I can follow with certainty and with confidence,” Elizabeth said, addressing the nation that evening. “I thank you all from a full heart.”  
  
1957  
  
First state visit to America  
  
Queen Elizabeth II, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, first lady Mamie Eisenhower and Prince Philip pose at the White House on Oct. 17, 1957. (AP)  
  
Queen of the jet-setting age, Elizabeth has made more than 90 state visits, in addition to traveling widely in the British Commonwealth. While projecting the symbolism of the crown, she has helped to strengthen ties with allies and smooth fraught relationships in places such as India, Russia, South Africa and Ireland.  
  
Elizabeth visited President Harry S. Truman in 1951 when she was a princess, but she made her first state visit to the United States as queen in 1957, meeting with President Dwight D. Eisenhower to mark the 350th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown, Va.  
  
1957  
  
First televised Christmas address  
  
Queen Elizabeth II smiles just before the end of her first Christmas Day television speech in 1957. (Keystone/Getty Images)  
  
Queen Elizabeth II has never given an interview. But she has found ways to connect with her subjects, including through her annual Christmas address, a central part of British holiday traditions.  
  
As both head of state and head of the Church of England, she has mixed words of wisdom, faith and occasionally personal reflections.  
  
“I cannot lead you into battle, I do not give you laws or administer justice, but I can do something else, I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations,” she said in her first televised Christmas remarks in 1957.  
  
1965  
  
Beatlemania comes to Buckingham Palace  
  
A policeman loses his helmet while holding back Beatles fans outside Buckingham Palace on Oct. 26, 1965. (AP)  
  
Among the notable cultural moments of the second Elizabethan era was the Beatles’ visit to Buckingham Palace in London on Oct. 26, 1965. Thousands of adoring fans pressed past policemen and climbed onto palace gates and lampposts as John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr arrived to meet the queen.  
  
Wearing a pale gold gown, she bestowed medals of honor on the British pop culture icons. “She was very friendly,” McCartney said after the meeting. “She was just like a mum to us.” Four years later, Lennon would return his medal, in protest of Britain’s support of the U.S. war in Vietnam and its involvement in the Nigerian Civil War.  
  
1966  
  
Aberfan mine disaster  
  
Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visit Aberfan in Wales to comfort the families of the 144 people who died when a coal tip collapsed on the local school. (Stan Meagher/Getty Images)  
  
The queen’s reign has also been marked by moments of national devastation. On Oct. 21, 1966, an avalanche of coal debris that had come loose from a rain-soaked mountain rushed through the Welsh town of Aberfan, killing 144 people, most of them children at school.  
  
As the nation mourned the tragedy, Elizabeth drew criticism for waiting eight days before visiting the disaster site, a decision she is said to regret.  
  
1969  
  
A visit from the Apollo 11 astronauts  
  
Queen Elizabeth II receives Apollo 11 astronauts, left to right, Michael Collins, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, at Buckingham Palace. (Bettmann Archive)  
  
Space exploration ranks high among the scientific and technological advances during Elizabeth’s reign. After becoming the first people to land on the moon, Americans Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin undertook a global goodwill tour, stopping at Buckingham Palace on Oct. 14, 1969.  
  
Armstrong later revealed that he was so sick that day he considered skipping the event; instead he went and ended up coughing on the queen. Collins, meanwhile, nearly fell down the stairs trying not to turn his back on Elizabeth, Aldrin said in a 2016 tweet.  
  
1970  
  
The first royal walkabout  
  
Queen Elizabeth II takes part in a “walkabout” in Sydney with Mayor Emmet McDermott in May 1970. (Keystone/Getty Images)  
  
Queen Elizabeth II broke centuries of tradition when, instead of waving from afar, she greeted people up close on a royal tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1970. Wearing a lemon-yellow dress, with a signature hat and handbag combination, she walked through the streets of Sydney smiling and speaking to giddy onlookers.  
  
Queen Elizabeth II meets Maori people in New Zealand in 1977. (Anwar Hussein/Getty Images)  
  
Since then, the “walkabout” has become a regular practice for many members of the royal family.  
  
1981  
  
Charles and Diana’s marriage  
  
Queen Elizabeth II poses with her son Charles and his fiancee, Diana Spencer, at Buckingham Palace on March 27, 1981. (Fox Photos/Getty Images)  
  
One of the rockier periods of the queen’s family life began with the fairy-tale wedding of her eldest son and heir, Prince Charles, to Diana Spencer on July 29, 1981. Up to a million people sought to get a glimpse of the procession in central London, while the BBC estimated that 750 million people around the world watched on television.  
  
Although Diana was beloved as “the people’s princess,” the couple had a troubled marriage, with mutual accusations of infidelity. They separated in 1992 — a year the queen called “annus horribilis,” (“a disastrous year” in Latin), as it also involved her son Andrew’s separation, her daughter Anne’s divorce and a fire at Windsor Castle.  
  
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1986  
  
First British monarch to visit China  
  
Elizabeth and Philip visit the Great Wall of China in October 1986. (Tim Graham/Getty Images)  
  
President Richard M. Nixon had gone before her. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, too. But in October 1986, Elizabeth became the first British monarch to visit China. The trip was seen as an important piece of Britain’s diplomatic effort as it prepared to return Hong Kong to Chinese control. The queen saw the Great Wall and newly unearthed terra cotta warriors. And, unlike Thatcher, she remained unperturbed when Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping spat into a spittoon by his seat.  
  
1996  
  
Hosting Nelson Mandela  
  
South African President Nelson Mandela stands with Queen Elizabeth II on his arrival at Buckingham Palace for a state banquet in his honor in July 1996. (AP)  
  
South African President Nelson Mandela arrived in Britain in July 1996 for a four-day state visit to his country’s former colonizer. Addressing members of Parliament, he denounced racism as “a blight on the human conscience.”  
  
On that trip, Mandela and the queen developed a lasting fondness for each other. She hosted him at Buckingham Palace and took him on a carriage ride through central London. At a party at the Royal Albert Hall, Mandela had the queen on her feet, though she “has seldom been known to boogie in public,” the Daily Telegraph reported.  
  
1997  
  
Diana’s death  
  
Elizabeth and Philip view the thousands of flowers and tributes left outside Kensington Palace in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, on Sept. 5, 1997. (John Stillwell/AFP/Getty Images)  
  
Millions can still remember exactly where they were in 1997 when they learned of the death of Princess Diana in a car crash in Paris. The moment shocked the world and put intense public scrutiny on the British royal family.  
  
The queen faced criticism for a slow response. Days later, she spoke to the nation live from Buckingham Palace and said: “No one who knew Diana will ever forget her. Millions of others who never met her, but felt they knew her, will remember her.” She added, “We have all been trying in our different ways to cope.”  
  
2007  
  
50th anniversary of the first Christmas television broadcast  
  
Elizabeth tapes her Christmas Day message in the 1844 Room at Buckingham Palace in 2007. (Steve Parsons/Pool/AFP/Getty Images)  
  
In 2007, the queen marked 50 years of her Christmas broadcast with a modern flair: She posted the speech on YouTube.  
  
“One of the features of growing old is the heightened awareness of change,” she said. “To remember what happened 50 years ago means that it is possible to appreciate what has changed in the meantime; it also makes you aware of what has remained constant,” like family, the monarch added.  
  
2012  
  
London Olympics  
  
Officials applaud as Queen Elizabeth II arrives during the Opening Ceremonies of the Summer Olympics in London on July 27, 2012. (Matt Dunham/AP)  
  
The famously staid queen surprised audiences at the 2012 London Olympic Games by appearing in a dramatic opening segment alongside Britain’s most famous spy, James Bond, played by actor Daniel Craig.  
  
A video showed 007 coming to the palace to escort the monarch to the opening ceremony, with the two appearing to parachute from a helicopter into the Olympic Stadium amid wild applause from startled fans. The real queen, poker-faced as always, entered her box seat with a familiar yet cheeky wave.  
  
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2020  
  
Harry and Meghan’s defection  
  
Prince Harry and Meghan Markle leave St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle after their wedding ceremony in Windsor, England, on May 19, 2018. (Danny Lawson/AP)  
  
The wedding of Prince Harry to American actress Meghan Markle in 2018 was a global event — and prompted questions about whether a biracial, politically active, self-proclaimed feminist might help modernize the British monarchy.  
  
But by 2020, Harry and Meghan announced that they felt hounded by the media and would be stepping back from their royal duties. The queen brokered their departure from the family firm, writing in a statement: “Although we would have preferred them to remain full-time working Members of the Royal Family, we respect and understand their wish to live a more independent life as a family while remaining a valued part of my family.”  
  
2021  
  
Prince Philip’s death  
  
Elizabeth and Philip walk together at Broadlands in Hampshire, England, in 2007. (Fiona Hanson/AFP/Getty Images)  
  
Elizabeth had been married to Philip for 73 years when Buckingham Palace announced his death on April 9, 2021. His funeral, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, was attended only by close family members and friends. The queen sat alone in a pew, wearing a black face mask, in keeping with national restrictions.  
  
Britain's Queen Elizabeth II sits alone in St. George's Chapel during the funeral of Prince Philip. (Jonathan Brady/AP)  
  
Elizabeth, whom Philip affectionately called Lilibet, had described him as her “strength and stay.” In her Christmas message that year, she recalled that his “mischievous, inquiring twinkle was as bright at the end as when I first set eyes on him.” Then she added: “But life, of course, consists of final partings as well as first meetings.”  
  
2022  
  
Platinum Jubilee  
  
Spectators watch the Royal Air Force flyover on the Mall in London after the Trooping the Colour parade on June 2. (Chris J Ratcliffe/Getty Images)  
  
Parades, parties and a public holiday this week mark the queen’s Platinum Jubilee, which celebrates Elizabeth as the first and only British monarch to reach 70 years on the throne.  
  
Queen Elizabeth, Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, along with Princess Charlotte, Prince George and Prince Louis, appear on the balcony of Buckingham Palace on June 2. (Hannah McKay/Reuters)  
  
The pomp and celebration kicked off Thursday with a military parade through London, an 82-gun salute and 70 Royal Air Force aircraft streaking through the sky. The queen emerged on the balcony of Buckingham Palace as thousands of Britons reflected on her long life and reign.  
  
  
https://www.history.com/news/queen-elizabeth-ii-key-moments  
TITLE: Queen Elizabeth II: 15 Key Moments in Her Reign  
META DESCRIPTION: Revisit some of the most historic moments in the reign of Britain’s record-setting monarch.  
META KEYWORDS: Stories, British Royals,   
H1: Queen Elizabeth II: 15 Key Moments in Her Reign,   
H2: 1. Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation - June 2, 1953, 2. First State Visit to West Germany - 1965, 3. Mining Disaster in Wales - 1966, 4. First 'Walkabout' - 1970, 5. Silver Jubilee - 1977, 6. Prince Charles' Wedding to Lady Diana Spencer - 1981, 7. Visit to China - 1986, Recommended for you, Young Lords occupy Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx, What Was Life Like in Ancient Babylon?, 7 Mysterious Mass Illnesses That Defied Explanation, 8. 'Annus Horribilis' - 1992, 9. Response to Princess Diana’s death - 1997, 10. Golden Jubilee - 2002, 11. Visit to Republic of Ireland - 2011, 12. Birth of Prince George - 2013, 13. Prince Harry & Meghan Markle’s wedding - 2018, 14. Prince Philip's death - 2021, 15. Platinum Jubilee - 2022, FACT CHECK: We strive for accuracy and fairness. But if you see something that doesn't look right, click here to contact us! HISTORY reviews and updates its content regularly to ensure it is complete and accurate., SIGN UP FOR MORE HISTORY!, RELATED CONTENT, Queen Elizabeth II, 8 Things You May Not Know About Queen Elizabeth II, Queen Elizabeth II’s Reign: Then and Now, Queen Elizabeth II: The Real Stories Behind the Tumultuous 1960s and '70s, 7 Key Facts About British Royal History, The 1969 Documentary That Tried to Humanize Queen Elizabeth II and the Royal Family,   
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Italic: : Ad Choices, Advertise, Closed Captioning, Copyright Policy, Corporate Information, Employment Opportunities, FAQ/Contact Us, Privacy Notice, Terms of Use, TV Parental Guidelines, RSS Feeds, Accessibility Support, Privacy Settings, on May 27, 1965, We strive for accuracy and fairness. But if you see something that doesn't look right, click here to contact us! HISTORY reviews and updates its content regularly to ensure it is complete and accurate.,   
TEXT: Queen Elizabeth II is such an institution that it’s easy to forget she wasn’t supposed to have become queen at all.  
  
Born in 1926, Elizabeth was the daughter of King George V’s second son, and had little expectation of succeeding to the throne until her uncle, King Edward VIII, abdicated in 1936 to marry the divorced American socialite Wallis Simpson. After the death of her father, King George VI, 25-year-old Elizabeth was called upon to assume the throne, beginning a momentous reign. In February 2022, the United Kingdom kicked off a series of celebrations for the queen's Platinum Jubilee—marking 70 years of her service to the British Commonwealth.  
  
At 96 years old, Queen Elizabeth II has proven consistent and enduring. In April 2021, she lost her husband of 73 years, Prince Phillip, when he died at age 99. Then in February 2022, the Queen contracted the coronavirus, which she later said left her "very tired and exhausted."  
  
1. Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation - June 2, 1953  
  
Queen Elizabeth II after her coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey, London. Hulton Archive/Getty Images  
  
Held at Westminster Abbey, Elizabeth’s coronation ceremony was the first to be broadcast live on television. Some 27 million people in the United Kingdom (out of a total population of 36 million) watched the ceremony, and 11 million more listened on the radio. Afterward, some 3 million people lined the route as the queen and her entourage made their slow procession back to Buckingham Palace.  
  
READ MORE: Queen Elizabeth II's Reign: Then and Now  
  
2. First State Visit to West Germany - 1965  
  
Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip drive in an open off-road vehicle of the British Military Police on the occasion of a parade of British troops over the Maifeld at the Olympic Stadium, in Berlin, on May 27, 1965. Kurt Rohwedder/Picture Alliance/Getty Images  
  
In the midst of a decade marked by social and political changes, the queen kept to a busy schedule of diplomatic duties, including a 10-day visit to the Federal Republic of Germany (or West Germany) that was the first official visit there by a British royal since 1913. Her visit marked the 20-year anniversary of the end of World War II, helping to symbolize the reconciliation between the two countries and recognize Germany’s reemergence as a power in Europe and on the world stage.  
  
READ MORE: Queen Elizabeth II: The Real Stories Behind the Tumultuous 1960s and '70s  
  
3. Mining Disaster in Wales - 1966  
  
9 Gallery 9 Images  
  
On October 21, 1966, an avalanche of mud, water and debris from a coal mine buried an elementary school in the South Wales village of Aberfan, killing 116 children and 28 adults. Though Prince Philip arrived in Aberfan a day after the disaster, the queen herself delayed her visit for over a week, fearing her presence would distract from rescue and recovery efforts. Some of those close to Elizabeth—including her former private secretary, Lord Charteris—have said she regrets the decision not to visit Aberfan sooner.  
  
READ MORE: How the 1966 Aberfan Mine Disaster Became Elizabeth II's Biggest Regret  
  
4. First 'Walkabout' - 1970  
  
Queen Elizabeth II visits the Town Hall in Sydney with Emmet McDermott, Lord Mayor of Sydney, during her tour of Australia, May 1970. Keystone/Hulton Archive/Getty Images  
  
During a royal tour of Australia and New Zealand with Philip and Princess Anne in 1970, Elizabeth bucked centuries of royal tradition when she took a casual stroll to greet crowds of people in person, rather than wave to them from a protected distance. Now a regular practice for British royals both abroad and at home, the first “walkabout” in Sydney was proposed by Sir William Heseltine, an Australian who served as the queen’s private secretary and was the driving force behind a 1969 TV documentary featuring the royal family, which attracted a global audience of some 40 million people.  
  
READ MORE: The 1969 Documentary That Tried to Humanize Queen Elizabeth II and Her Family  
  
5. Silver Jubilee - 1977  
  
Queen Elizabeth II, with Lord Mayor of London, after Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations, June 7, 1977. Mirrorpix/Getty Images  
  
On June 7, Elizabeth and Philip rode in the Gold State Coach from Buckingham Palace to St. Paul’s Cathedral to officially celebrate her 25th year on the throne. Wearing a bright pink outfit, including a hat decked out with 25 fabric bells, the queen repeated her long-ago pledge to devote her life to service, saying that "Although that vow was made in my salad days when I was green in judgement, I do not regret nor retract one word of it.”  
  
6. Prince Charles' Wedding to Lady Diana Spencer - 1981  
  
The Prince and Princess of Wales with their families at Buckingham Palace after their marriage at Westminster Abbey, 1981. Hulton-Deutsch/Corbis/Getty Images  
  
On July 29, 1981, an estimated 750 million people in 74 countries around the world tuned in to watch Prince Charles, Elizabeth’s eldest son, marry Lady Diana Spencer, at St. Paul’s Cathedral. The romance between the heir to the British throne and the young “Shy Di” had attracted massive media attention, and their lavish nuptials were considered the “wedding of the century.” But while Diana earned the adoration of the public, her marriage to Charles (and her relationship with the royal family) was troubled from the beginning.  
  
READ MORE: How Prince Charles and Lady Diana's Wedding Became a Global Event  
  
7. Visit to China - 1986  
  
Queen Elizabeth II viewing some of the Terracotta Army soldier statues at the Qin Shi Huang's Museum Of The Terra-cotta Warriors And Horses, Shaanxi Province, during a state visit to the People's Republic Of China China, 1986. Hulton Archive/Getty Images  
  
In late 1984, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher’s government agreed to return sovereignty over Hong Kong to China beginning July 1, 1997. In 1986, Elizabeth became the first British monarch to visit the Chinese mainland, touring the terracotta warriors in Xi’an, the Great Wall in Beijing and other sites. For the press, the diplomatic importance of the queen’s visit was outweighed by her husband’s characteristic (and sometimes racist) gaffes: Philip called Beijing “ghastly” and told a group of British students they would get “slitty eyes” if they stayed in China too long.  
  
8. 'Annus Horribilis' - 1992  
  
Charles and Diana’s marriage continued to deteriorate, and in 1992 they announced their decision to separate. Prince Andrew, the queen’s second son, and his wife, Sarah Ferguson, also separated, while Anne divorced her husband, Mark Phillips. Late that year, a fire broke out in Windsor Castle, destroying more than 100 rooms. In a speech delivered to mark the 40th anniversary of her succession, Queen Elizabeth remarked that 1992 “has turned out to be an 'Annus Horribilis'”: Latin for “a horrible year.”  
  
READ MORE: Charles and Diana Divorce  
  
9. Response to Princess Diana’s death - 1997  
  
The Queen seen making an announcement on a television inside a London pub, during the public funeral of Princess Diana, September 6, 1997. Derek Hudson/Getty Images  
  
Public criticism of the royal family grew more intense after Charles and Diana’s divorce in 1996 and especially after Diana’s death in a car crash in Paris the following summer. The queen initially remained at her estate in Balmoral, Scotland, and refused to allow the flag to fly at half-mast over Buckingham Palace or address the grieving nation.  
  
At the urging of her advisers, she soon revised her stance on the flag, returned to London to greet crowds of mourners and delivered a rare televised address to a nation devastated by the loss of the “People’s Princess.”  
  
READ MORE: Princess Diana's Death: Causes, Timeline  
  
10. Golden Jubilee - 2002  
  
Queen Elizabeth II visiting a community picnic where locals provided musical and dance entertainment to celebrate the ethnic diversity of West London at Gunnersbury Park, June 24, 2002.  
  
The queen’s celebration of her 50th year on the throne was marred by a double loss, when her younger sister, Princess Margaret, and their mother died within weeks of each other. As the first British monarch since Queen Victoria to celebrate a Golden Jubilee, Elizabeth traveled more than 40,000 miles that year, including visits to the Caribbean, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. She also visited 70 cities and towns in 50 counties in the United Kingdom.  
  
Compared with the tumultuous 1990s, the start of Elizabeth’s second half-century as queen coincided with the beginning of more positive relations between Britain and its royal family: In 2005, a majority of the British public supported Charles’ wedding to his longtime love, Camilla Parker-Bowles.  
  
11. Visit to Republic of Ireland - 2011  
  
Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh greeted by Irish President Mary McAleese and her husband, Martin McAleese, as they arrive at the Aras an Uachtarain, the official residence of the President of Ireland, on May 17, 2011 in Dublin, Ireland. The Duke and Queen's visit was the first by a monarch since 1911. Oli Scarff/Getty Images  
  
In May 2011, Elizabeth and Philip visited the Republic of Ireland at the invitation of President Mary McAleese. Though the queen had frequently visited Northern Ireland over the course of her reign, this was her first to the Republic of Ireland, and the first by a British monarch in 100 years. Elizabeth’s visit, during which she expressed her “sincere thoughts and deep sympathy” for the victims of the troubled Anglo-Irish past, was widely celebrated as the beginning of a new era of friendship.  
  
12. Birth of Prince George - 2013  
  
Prince George of Cambridge, Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and Queen Elizabeth II look on from the balcony during the annual Trooping the Colour ceremony at Horse Guards Parade on June 13, 2015 in London, England. Samir Hussein/WireImage/Getty Images  
  
In July 2013, the queen welcomed a new great-grandson, Prince George Alexander Louis of Cambridge, the first child of Prince William and the former Kate Middleton, who married in 2011. As third in the line of succession after his grandfather and his father, George is widely expected to become king one day. His birth marked the first time since Victoria’s reign that three generations of direct heirs to the British throne were alive at the same time.  
  
13. Prince Harry & Meghan Markle’s wedding - 2018  
  
The Duke and Duchess of Sussex pose for an official wedding photograph in The Green Drawing Room at Windsor Castle on May 19, 2018. Alexi Lubomirski/The Duke and Duchess of Sussex/Getty Images  
  
Perhaps no other event during Elizabeth’s reign symbolized the modernizing monarchy more than the wedding of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle, a divorced, biracial American actress. Though the queen reportedly gave her quick approval to the match, the relationship between the couple and the British media—as well as the rest of the royal family—grew increasingly tense after their marriage. In 2020, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex announced they were stepping back from their role as senior royals. They later moved to Markle’s native Southern California with their son, Archie, born in 2019.  
  
14. Prince Philip's death - 2021  
  
Queen Elizabeth II during the funeral of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. Because of coronavirus restrictions, only 30 guests were invited. Jonathan Brady - WPA Pool/Getty Images  
  
On April 9, 2021, Prince Philip, Elizabeth's husband of 73 years, died at the age of 99. The British monarchy’s longest-running love story began just before World War II, when 18-year-old Prince Philip of Greece met his third cousin, Princess Elizabeth, during her family’s visit to the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, where Philip was studying. On November 14, 1947, the couple were married in Westminster Abbey, and King George VI named Philip as Duke of Edinburgh shortly after that. For more than a half-century, Prince Philip supported his wife in her royal duties and took on an ambitious slate of obligations of his own. Philip's funeral was held on April 17, 2021. Because of coronavirus restrictions, only 30 guests were invited to attend. Photos of the queen sitting alone in St. George's Chapel struck many as a symbol of her loneliness and grief.  
  
15. Platinum Jubilee - 2022  
  
Queen Elizabeth II views a display of memorabilia from her Golden and Platinum Jubilees in the Oak Room at Windsor Castle on February 4, 2022 in Windsor, England. Steve Parsons/Getty Images  
  
In February of 2022, England began a series of celebrations marking Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne. On June 2, a military parade featuring 1,400 troops in bearskin caps, musicians and 240 horses, a Royal Air Force flyover and an 82-gun salute were staged to honor the 96-year-old monarch, whose birthday was on April 21. One section of London even featured a parade of corgis (Elizabeth's favorite dog breed), with more than 30 of the short-legged canines "marching" in a procession.  
  
The queen watched the pageantry from the balcony of Buckingham Palace and was joined by four generations of her heirs, including her eldest son, Prince Charles; his eldest son, Prince William; and William’s eldest son, Prince George. Despite her age and having sustained a case of COVID-19 in February, the Queen, dressed in pearls and a light blue dress, coat and hat, wore a broad grin.