

The Monarchy

- **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.



The Role of the Monarchy

- Monarchy is the oldest form of government in the United Kingdom.
- In a monarchy, a king or queen is **Head of State**. The British monarchy is known as a **constitutional monarchy**. This means that, while The Sovereign is Head of State, the ability to make and pass legislation resides with an elected Parliament.
- Although the British Sovereign no longer has a political or executive role, he or she continues to play an important part in the life of the nation.
- As Head of State, The Monarch undertakes constitutional and representational duties which have developed over one thousand years of history. In addition to these State duties, The Monarch has a less formal role as 'Head of Nation'. 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.
- In all these roles The Sovereign is supported by members of their immediate family.

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/MonarchUK/HowtheMonarchyworks/HowtheMonarchyworks.aspx>

Queen and Government

- As Head of State The Queen has to remain strictly neutral with respect to political matters, unable to vote or stand for election.

But The Queen does have important ceremonial and formal roles in relation to the Government of the UK.

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/MonarchUK/QueenandGovernment/QueenandGovernment.aspx>

- The Queen as Sovereign is Head of the Armed Forces.

Queen and Law

- In the earliest times the Sovereign was a key figure in the enforcement of law and the establishment of legal systems in different areas of the UK. As such the Sovereign became known as the '**Fount of Justice**'.
- While no longer administering justice in a practical way, the Sovereign today still retains an important symbolic role as the figure in whose name justice is carried out, and law and order is maintained.
- Although civil and criminal proceedings cannot be taken against the Sovereign as a person under UK law, The Queen is careful to ensure that all her activities in her personal capacity are carried out in strict accordance with the law.

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/MonarchUK/Queenandthelaw/Queenandthelaw.aspx>

Queen and the Church

- In the United Kingdom, The Queen's title includes the words 'Defender of the Faith'.
- This means Her Majesty has a specific role in both the Church of England and the Church of Scotland.
- As established Churches, they are recognised by law as the official Churches of England and Scotland, respectively. In both England and Scotland, the established Churches are subject to the regulation of law. The principle of religious toleration is fully recognised both for those of other creeds and for those without any religious beliefs.

There are no established Churches in Northern Ireland nor in Wales.

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/MonarchUK/QueenandChurch/QueenandChurch.aspx>

The Queen and the Commonwealth

- From Australia to Antigua, Canada to Cameroon, the Commonwealth is a remarkable international organisation, spanning every geographical region, religion and culture. It exists to foster international co-operation and trade links between people all over the world.

The Queen is Sovereign of 15 Commonwealth realms in addition to the UK. She is also Head of the Commonwealth itself, a voluntary association of 54 independent countries.

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/MonarchAndCommonwealth/Overview.aspx>

Symbols of the Monarchy

- **The Crown Jewels** are the ceremonial treasures which have been acquired by English kings and queens, mostly since 1660.
- The collection includes not only the regalia used at coronations, but also crowns acquired by various monarchs, church and banqueting plate, orders, insignia, robes, a unique collection of medals and Royal christening fonts.

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/MonarchUK/Symbols/TheCrownJewels.aspx>



National Anthem

- The British National Anthem dates back to the eighteenth century.
- 'God Save The King' was a patriotic song first publicly performed in London in 1745, which came to be known as the National Anthem at the beginning of the nineteenth century.
- The words and tune are anonymous, and may date back to the seventeenth century.
- There is no authorised version of the National Anthem as the words are a matter of tradition. Additional verses have been added down the years, but these are rarely used.

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/MonarchUK/Symbols/NationalAnthem.aspx>

National Anthem

- God save our gracious Queen!
Long live our noble Queen!
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.
- O Lord our God arise,
Scatter her enemies
And make them fall;
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish
tricks,
On Thee our hopes we fix,
God save us all!
- Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

Coinage and bank notes

- There are close ties between the Monarchy and the UK monetary system.
- These can be seen, for example, in the title of the 'Royal Mint' and the representation of the monarch on all circulating British coinage.



Stamps



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- Symbols of the Royal origins of the UK's postal system remain.

A miniature silhouette of the monarch's head is depicted on all stamps; the personal cyphers of The Queen and her predecessors (going back to Victoria) appear on most letterboxes; and the main postal delivery service is known as the Royal Mail.

- The image of The Queen which appears on UK postage stamps was designed by Arnold Machin, who originally created it as a sculpture.

Issued on 5 June 1967, it has remained unchanged for four decades.

It is thought that this design is the most reproduced work of art in history, with over 200 billion examples produced so far.

Royal Residences

- **Buckingham Palace** has served as the official London residence of Britain's sovereigns since 1837 and today is the administrative headquarters of the Monarch.
- Although in use for the many official events and receptions held by The Queen, the State Rooms at Buckingham Palace are open to visitors every year. For visitor information, please visit the Royal Collection website.
- Buckingham Palace has 775 rooms. These include 19 State rooms, 52 Royal and guest bedrooms, 188 staff bedrooms, 92 offices and 78 bathrooms. In measurements, the building is 108 metres long across the front, 120 metres deep (including the central quadrangle) and 24 metres high.
- The Palace is very much a working building and the centrepiece of Britain's constitutional monarchy. It houses the offices of those who support the day-to-day activities and duties of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh and their immediate family.
- The Palace is also the venue for great Royal ceremonies, State Visits and Investitures, all of which are organised by the Royal Household.

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/TheRoyalResidences/BuckinghamPalace/BuckinghamPalace.aspx>

Buckingham Palace



Windsor Castle

- Windsor Castle is an official residence of The Queen and the largest occupied castle in the world. A Royal home and fortress for over 900 years, the Castle remains a working palace today.
- The Queen uses the Castle both as a private home, where she usually spends the weekend, and as a Royal residence at which she undertakes certain formal duties.
- Every year The Queen takes up official residence in Windsor Castle for a month over Easter (March-April), known as Easter Court. During that time The Queen hosts occasional 'dine and sleeps' events for guests, including politicians and public figures.
- The Queen is also in residence for a week in June, when she attends the Royal Ascot race meeting.
- Windsor Castle is often used by The Queen to host State Visits from overseas monarchs and presidents. Foreign Heads of State enter the Castle in horse-drawn carriages through the George IV Gateway into the quadrangle in the Upper Ward, where a military guard of honour is drawn up.

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/TheRoyalResidences/WindsorCastle/WindsorCastle.aspx>



Windsor Castle



Balmoral Castle

- Balmoral Castle on the Balmoral Estate in Aberdeenshire, Scotland is the private residence of The Queen. Beloved by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, Balmoral Castle has remained a favourite residence for The Queen and her family during the summer holiday period in August and September. The Castle is located on the large Balmoral Estate, a working estate which aims to protect the environment while contributing to the local economy.

The Estate grounds, gardens and the Castle Ballroom are open to visitors from the beginning of April to the end of July each year, under the management of the Balmoral Estate Office.

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/TheRoyalResidences/BalmoralCastle/BalmoralCastle.aspx>

Balmoral Castle



Sandringham House

- Sandringham House in Norfolk has been the private home of four generations of Sovereigns since 1862. The Queen and other members of the Royal Family regularly spend Christmas at Sandringham and make it their official base until February each year.



The Royal Family



Royal Christmas Message

- It is a broadcast made by the sovereign of the Commonwealth realms to the Commonwealth of Nations each Christmas. The tradition began in 1932 with a radio broadcast by King George V on the British Broadcasting Corporation's Empire Service. Today, the message is read by Elizabeth II and broadcast on television, radio, and the Internet via various providers.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Christmas_Message



Diamond Jubilee

- The Queen celebrated 60 years as Monarch in 2012.
- The Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh, and other Members of the Royal Family attended a Service to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Coronation Service on Tuesday 4 June 2013.

