

# Queen Elizabeth II

1926 – 2022

Use these words to complete the text below:

different  
duties  
school  
oldest

contact  
throne  
monarch  
country

studied  
reign  
official

married  
celebrating  
republic

popular  
letters  
lifetime



Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor; born 21 April 1926 – or, to use her \_\_\_\_\_ title, Queen Elizabeth II – had her 86<sup>th</sup> birthday in April 2012, making her one of the \_\_\_\_\_ monarchs in British history. She has been on the \_\_\_\_\_ since her coronation on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953.

As you would probably expect, the Queen has had a very \_\_\_\_\_ life from most other people. As a girl she \_\_\_\_\_ music and art and enjoyed drama and swimming, but she did not go to \_\_\_\_\_ with other children – instead she had special lessons at home.

She got \_\_\_\_\_ at the age of 21 to Prince Philip, the son of Prince Andrew of Greece. They have four children: Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward.

The Queen does not have much direct \_\_\_\_\_ with the media, and has never given an interview. However, people know some of the things she does when she is not performing her public \_\_\_\_\_ – for example she loves spending time with her corgis (a small, brown breed of dog – she has owned more than thirty of them in her \_\_\_\_\_), likes watching horse racing, and also enjoys photography.

Some interesting facts about the Queen were included in an official website \_\_\_\_\_ her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Among them are the following: during her \_\_\_\_\_ she has visited 129 countries and received more than 3 million \_\_\_\_\_ and emails; she has received some very unusual presents, including a jaguar from Brazil; and according to a strange law from the fourteenth century, she is the owner of any dolphin or whale swimming in the sea around Britain.

The Queen will probably stay on the throne for the rest of her life. It is likely that the next \_\_\_\_\_ will be her oldest son, Prince Charles, but it could be her grandson Prince William, who is the son of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana.

Although some British people would like their country to be a \_\_\_\_\_ and not a monarchy, most would agree that the Queen has worked hard and tried to serve her \_\_\_\_\_ as well as she can – that is probably why she is more \_\_\_\_\_ than any prime minister in British history. She died peacefully at Balmoral Castle in Scotland on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Read the texts 1-7 and match them with the titles a-g.

- a) In love with a relative
- b) Princess in service
- c) Unusual alarm clock
- d) Bright looks
- e) Marine creatures of the Queen
- f) The legacy of the ancestor
- g) No need for papers

1. You may know that all unmarked swans on Britain waterways were technically owned by the queen, but did you know that she also owned all the dolphins and whales in British waters? They are known as "fishes royal."
2. Elizabeth met Philip when she was just eight years old and he was 13 at the wedding of Prince George (Elizabeth was brother) and Princess Marina (Philip was cousin). Elizabeth and Philip are themselves third cousins. When Philip was 18, he began writing to 13-year-old Elizabeth. Seven years later, they were engaged.
3. When she was at Balmoral, the queen was woken by a bagpiper playing under her window every morning. Apparently it goes on for a full fifteen minutes. You'd sure be ready to get up and start the day was business of queening after that!
4. In 1944, when Princess Elizabeth was 18, she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service with which she trained as a truck driver and a mechanic in order to play her part in a war that began when she was 13 years old. She is the only female member of the British royal family to have served in the military.
5. The queen had two birthdays. She turned 96 on April 21, 2022, but her official birthday was in June. The tradition of the monarch having an "official" birthday began more than 250 years ago, with King George II deciding to publicly celebrate his birthday in the summer rather than cold and wet November. And so, since 1748, every British monarch has carried on the tradition, so that there would be less chance of poor weather impeding outdoor celebrations and military parades celebrating their birthdays.
6. The queen was the only person in the UK who is not required to have a driving license or license plate on her vehicle. She also didn't need a passport to travel, as all British passports were issued in her name.
7. You know those brightly colored outfits complete with matching hats that the queen was so fond of? Well, there was a reason that she dressed in shades of bright pink, yellow and green. It was so that she would always stand out in a crowd. She was pretty short, so wearing neon and pastel shades helped people catch a glimpse of her during public engagements.

## Queen Elizabeth II Cloze Activity

|          |       |         |          |         |
|----------|-------|---------|----------|---------|
| Balmoral | two   | crowned | monarch  | War     |
| Philip   | April | horse   | Platinum | reigned |

Read through the facts about Queen Elizabeth II and fill in the spaces using words from the word bank.

1. Queen Elizabeth II \_\_\_\_\_ for 70 years.
2. She was born on 21 \_\_\_\_\_ 1926 to parents the Duke and Duchess of York.
3. Elizabeth was \_\_\_\_\_ Queen on 2 June 1953.
4. She was the longest reigning \_\_\_\_\_ in Britain.
5. Queen Elizabeth II had \_\_\_\_\_ birthdays. Her official birthday was held on a Saturday in June.
6. She married Prince \_\_\_\_\_, Duke of Edinburgh.
7. She enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_ riding, pigeon racing, and football.
8. Elizabeth fought in World \_\_\_\_\_ II.
9. In 2022, the queen and the country celebrated her \_\_\_\_\_ Jubilee.
10. Queen Elizabeth II died on 8 September 2022 at \_\_\_\_\_ Castle in Scotland.

