



This photo combo shows Britain's Queen Elizabeth II during the State Opening of Parliament, London, in April, 1966 on the left and Nov. 15, 2006, on the right. (AP Photo, Arthur Edwards, Pool, File)

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QUEEN ELIZABETH'S PLATINUM JUBILEE MARKS 70 YEARS ON THE THRONE

THE WOMAN WHO BECAME QUEEN ELIZABETH II WILL REACH 70 YEARS ON THE THRONE SUNDAY

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor wasn't born to wear the crown. But destiny intervened.

The woman who became Queen Elizabeth II will mark 70 years on the throne Sunday, an unprecedented reign that has made her a symbol of stability as the United Kingdom navigated an age of uncertainty.

From her early days as a glamorous young royal in glittering tiaras to her more recent incarnation as the nation's grandmother, the queen has witnessed the end of the British Empire, the advent of multiculturalism, the rise of international terrorism, and the challenges posed by Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic. In a world of relentless change, she has been a constant — representing the U.K.'s interests abroad, applauding the nation's successes and commiserating in its failures, and always remaining above the fray of politics.



Queen Elizabeth II will mark 70 years on the throne Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022, an unprecedented reign that has made her a symbol of stability as the United Kingdom navigated an age of uncertainty. (Yui Mok/Pool Photo via AP, File)

As the elder daughter of King George V's second son, Elizabeth, now 95, was expected to live the life of a minor royal when she was born on April 21, 1926. Dogs and horses, a country house, a suitable match — a comfortable but uneventful life — seemed her future.

But everything changed a decade later when her uncle, King Edward VIII, abdicated so he could marry the American divorcee Wallis Simpson. Elizabeth's father became King George VI, making the young princess heir apparent.



Princess Elizabeth the eldest daughter of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, poses for a photo on her 13th birthday, in Windsor Great Park, in England, April 21, 1939. (AP Photo, File)

Elizabeth followed her father in leading by example, joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service in early 1945, becoming the first female member of the Royal Family to join the armed services as a full-time active member. On her 21st birthday, she dedicated her life to the nation and the Commonwealth, the voluntary association of states that grew out of the British Empire.

In 1952, the young princess embarked on a tour of the Commonwealth in place of her ailing father. She was at a remote Kenyan lodge, where she and her husband Prince Philip watched baboons from the treetops, when she heard her father had died.

She immediately returned to London, disembarking the plane in black mourning clothes, to begin her life as queen. She has reigned ever since, with crown and scepter on big occasions, but more commonly wearing a broad-brimmed hat and carrying a simple handbag.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, then Princess Elizabeth, right, with her father King George VI, in the grounds of the Royal Lodge, Windsor, England, Aug. 20, 1946. (AP Photo, File)

Once a year, she travels the mile or so from Buckingham Palace to the House of Lords for the ceremonial opening of Parliament. And when world leaders come to call she hosts state banquets during which her diamonds flash under the TV lights and presidents and prime ministers worry about whether to bow and when to offer a toast.

But it is the less lavish events that give the queen a link to the public.

When Prince Philip died during the pandemic, she donned a black face mask and sat alone during his socially distanced funeral, silently demonstrating that the rules applied to everyone — particularly her.

"She's not beholden to the electorate. She's not dependent on her latest hit or her latest movie," said Emily Nash, royal editor of HELLO! magazine. "She's just there. She does what she does. She carries out her duties without ever complaining or making any personal drama. And people respect her for that."

For the queen, Sunday is likely to be bittersweet, marking both her long reign and the 70th anniversary of her father's death.

QUESTIONS:

1. Write down any of the words you did not understand in the article. Look up what they mean online and write the definition.

WORD	DEFINITION

2. TRUE / FALSE

- a. The world has changed throughout her reign.
- b. She travels from Buckingham Palace to the House of Commons several times a year.
- c. She toured the commonwealth with her father.
- d. Her uncle was supposed to become the King.
- e. The Queen's father was George VI
- f. Sunday will be both good and bad for her

a. TRUE	FALSE
b. TRUE	FALSE
c. TRUE	FALSE
d. TRUE	FALSE
e. TRUE	FALSE
f. TRUE	FALSE

3. MULTIPLE CHOICE

Where was the Queen 70 years ago?

- a) Kiribati
- b) Canada
- c) Kenya
- d) Chad

What does she do without complaining?

- a) Wear a crown
- b) Carries out her duty
- c) Eats coronation chicken
- d) Goes to different countries

Who was her father?

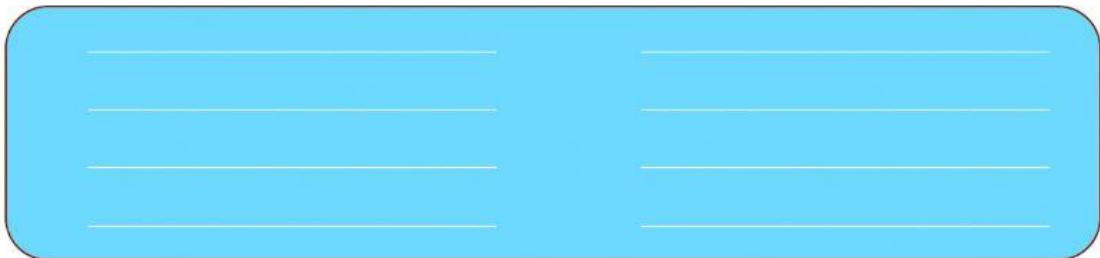
- a) George V's eldest son
- b) Edward VII
- c) George V's second eldest son
- d) George V

What is the Jubilee celebrating?

- e) Her birthday
- f) Her wedding anniversary
- g) Her father's death
- h) The length of time she has been Queen.

4. WRITING

What do you need to include in a good piece of writing?



Choose one of the topics below to write about. There are some questions to help you with your writing. Remember to include good writing features from your list.

A - Should all countries have a monarchy?

- *What is your initial opinion and why?*
- *Can you think of reasons for having a monarchy?*
- *Can you think of reasons against having a monarchy?*
- *Why do you think we have a monarchy?*
- *Can you find any interesting facts about the monarchy?*

B - Would you like to be a member of the Royal Family?

- *What is your initial opinion and why?*
- *Can you think of reasons for being a member?*
- *Can you think of reasons against being a member?*
- *What do you think the role involves?*