

1 Warmer

A Discuss with a partner or in groups.

1. What do you know about the life of Queen Elizabeth II?

The Incredible Reign of Queen Elizabeth II

The media worldwide has brought us the sad news that the Queen, the longest reigning monarch in British history, has passed peacefully at Balmoral on 08 September 2022 at the age of 96. A large crowd gathered outside the gates of Buckingham Palace and heads of state have publicly shared their condolences from around the world. Prime Minister Liz Truss said “we are all devastated” and described the Queen as “a rock on which modern Britain was built.”

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was born on 21 April 1926, daughter of Albert, Duke of York, who later became King George VI. She fell in love with and married Prince Philip of Greece, a naval officer. When she was 25, her father, the King, was ill with lung cancer and died. She later said, “My father died much too young, so it was all a very sudden kind of taking on and making the best job you can.” Her Coronation was in June 1953.



The early years were difficult, and in the 1960s she was involved in a political disagreement when a new leader had to be chosen. Some people saw “the Monarchy” as very serious and correct and Buckingham Palace decided it was important to change that. A new name was chosen: “the Royal Family”, and the BBC made a film about the Queen’s family life. With millions seeing the Royal Family’s as ‘ordinary’ people, they won the public’s affection. While trying to win the support of the public, the young monarch had to stay strong throughout some difficult events around the time. 1960s saw the sharp raise of the violence in Northern Ireland. This personally affected the Royal Family when Prince Philip’s uncle, Lord Louis Mountbatten, was killed by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) during a fishing trip with his family.

Nevertheless, the Queen always persevered through all these difficult events and remained silent about any details of her family’s private lives. But in 1992, her children’s marriages weren’t going well, and this was all over newspapers internationally. In the same year, there was a fire at one of the Queen’s homes, Windsor Castle, and some people thought strongly that the Queen (and not taxpayers) had to pay for the repairs. The family had to deal with great sadness again in 1997 when Princess Diana died in a car accident.

Not everyone knows this but the British monarchy extends to other countries as well. Queen Elizabeth II was the Head of the Commonwealth, that has 56 member states, most of which are former British colonies. The Queen always showed a lot of love for the Commonwealth, and knew African leaders well. Since her death, the office of the Head of the Commonwealth is vacant until further notice.

In April 2006, the Queen appeared on the streets of Windsor on her 80th birthday and was received by crowds of people wishing her well. She will be remembered as one of the most beloved leaders thanks to her kindness and wisdom. Now, thousands, if not millions, of people are expected to pay their respects to Queen Elizabeth when her body is taken to Westminster Hall. The Crown passes to her son Charles, who will be known as King Charles III.

Glossary

condolences: sadness expressed for the family or friends of someone who has recently died

crown: a round golden object that a king or queen wears on their head

monarch: a king or queen

reign: to act as king or queen

2 Understanding the article

A Choose the correct way to finish each sentence.

- Queen Elizabeth II
 - ... was the first British queen.
 - ... reigned for the longest in British history.
- The Queen's father
 - ... died when she was 25.
 - ... was a Greek naval officer.
- The 1960's was a difficult time, so Buckingham Palace
 - ... showed people the Monarchy was very serious and correct. **b** ... showed people the Royal Family's normal life.
- 1992 was a sad year for the Queen because
 - ... Princess Diana died in a car accident and there was a fire.
 - ... there was a fire and her children's marriages were going badly.
- Thousands or millions of people are expected at Westminster Hall
 - ... to come and see the new King.
 - ... to pay respects to the Queen.

3 Exploring the topic

Find out more about two of the important moments in Queen Elizabeth's reign. You can choose any of those mentioned in the text to expand on them, or find different ones. Complete the chart below.

Important moment	Key events, dates, and information
1.	
2.	