

KINGS & QUEENS







THEMED PROGRAMME



AIM

Take a look back at Britain's most famous Kings and Queens including King Henry VIII, Mary Queen of Scots, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. There's a whole load of history to unpack in this themed programme with a series of challenges, games and crafts.

ACTIVITIES

-  Kings & Queens: True or False?
-  Defend the King
-  Kings & Queens Timeline
-  Which King or Queen is That?
-  My Royal Coat of Arms
-  King of Kings

KINGS & QUEENS

➔ INTRODUCTION

Britain has long been a nation ruled by a King or Queen. Let's explore some of the most famous monarchs of England, Scotland and Britain from over the last 1,000 years.

In those 1,000 years since we've been ruled by some fascinating Kings and Queens with many stories to tell. From murders to plotting, battles to beheadings, it's certainly not all been plain sailing for the Kings and Queens of Britain.

? DID YOU KNOW?

- Our current King, King Charles III, can trace his family line all the way back to William the Conqueror who was King 1,000 years ago.
- Some monarchs reigned for short periods, such as Lady Jane Grey's nine days as 'Queen', whilst others reigned for far longer, such as Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne.
- Henry VIII had six wives, two of which he beheaded!



GET LEARNING: ME & MY WORLD

KINGS & QUEENS: TRUE OR FALSE?

- 1 Nominate one end of your room as 'True' and the other as 'False'. You could put signs up to identify them.
- 2 Explain to the group that you are going to read out some statements about the Kings and Queens from our history. Their job is to try and work out if those statements are true or false.
- 3 Read out a statement. Children should then stand at the end of the room they believe is correct.
- 4 Once everyone has decided, share the correct answer and then read out the fact.
- 5 Continue playing with all nine statements. How many can children guess correctly?
- 6 You could play this game just for fun, or you could allocate points to children for every correct guess.



GET ACTIVE: PLAYING GAMES

DEFEND THE KING


Adapt a game of dodgeball into a mission to defend your King or Queen.

- 1 Place a line of cones in the centre of your meeting space, dividing the room into two even halves. On top of the cones place four or five sponge balls (or similar).
- 2 Split into two teams. Each team should nominate a King/Queen, who should wear a bib to identify them.
- 3 The aim of the game is to protect your King or Queen from being hit by a light/sponge ball. The rest of the team should protect the monarch by shielding the balls from hitting them. Both teams will be attacking and defending at the same time.
- 4 Defending players (bodyguards) can only block the balls using their hands and arms. If a ball hits any other part of a 'bodyguard's' body, then that bodyguard is out of the game and must go out.
- 5 The King/Queen has three lives. If they are hit anywhere on the body by the ball three times, then they have been defeated and the other team are the winners.
- 6 Play the game as many times as you wish, changing those playing the role of the King/Queen each time.



GET LEARNING: UNDERSTANDING CULTURE & TRADITION

KINGS & QUEENS TIMELINE

- 1  Print the 'King & Queens of Britain' sheets. This includes information on 15 Kings and Queens. Cut these into their individual cards.
- 2 Start the activity by asking the group about what they already know about the Kings and Queens of Britain over the last 1000+ years. How many can they name?
- 3 Briefly explain to the group that whilst we have a King/Queen of Britain these days, in the past that hasn't always been the case. Historically, England and Scotland had different monarchs and were two separate 'Kingdoms'. This activity will look at famous Kings and Queens of England, Scotland and Britain (this is indicated by the flag in the corner of each card).
- 4 This next part of the activity could be completed as one group or you could split into smaller groups. If splitting into smaller groups, give each one a full set of the Kings and Queens.
- 5 Ask the groups to take a look at the 15 cards and try to order them into a timeline, with the first King/Queen at one end and our most recent King (Charles III) at the other end.
- 6 After the groups have completed that task, go through the order together and talk about the facts found on each of the cards.
- 7 Finally, groups can get to know some of these Kings and Queens better by watching one of the YouTube Horrible Histories videos:


Horrible Histories: The Monarchs Song (English & British): <https://youtu.be/vC6okzIKQvg>

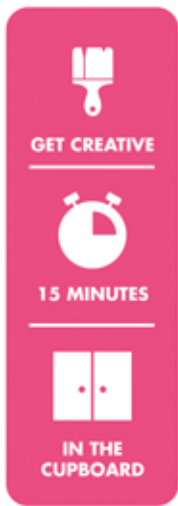
Horrible Histories: Scottish Kings & Queens (Scottish): <https://youtu.be/f3ebUiYQaMM>



GET ACTIVE: PLAYING GAMES


WHICH KING OR QUEEN IS THAT?

- 1  For this activity you'll need printed copies of the 15 cards from the 'Kings & Queens of Britain' (the same cards used in the timeline activity).
- 2 The aim of this game is for children to identify and find the correct King or Queen, based on a statement or fact that a leader calls out. All the facts should be things that can be found on the 15 cards, so children just need to race to find the matching fact on one of the cards. Some examples of these are below. Leaders should create more by reading through the cards.
 - She became Queen when she was just 6 days old (Mary Queen of Scots).
 - Her coronation was the first to be televised (Elizabeth II).
 - He became King when he was 9 and died when he was 15 (Edward VI).
- 3 This game could be played individually, with every child racing to find the correct King/Queen card, or it could be played in small teams. If playing in small teams, for each fact teams should nominate one person in their team to find the correct card.
- 4 Play the game in one of the following ways:
 - **Treasure Hunt:** Stick the 15 cards on the walls around your meeting space. Children must race around the room(s), finding and reading the cards, until they find the correct one.
 - **Obstacle Course:** Sit the group at one end of the room and the 15 cards at the other end. Read a statement and then children need to race through the obstacle course to reach the cards. Once through the obstacle course they can then look for the King/Queen they need.



GET CREATIVE: ARTY & CRAFTY

MY ROYAL COAT OF ARMS


-  Print a copy of the My Royal Coat of Arms template, each child will need their own copy. Alternately children could draw this themselves.
- Explain that a coat of arms is the colourful decoration that noble families use to represent themselves. They date back to the 1100s. When they used to go into battle, knights and royalty would wear their coat of arms on their shield, so they could tell who was who. All monarchs have had a coat of arms, including our current King.
- A coat of arms often has four sections, which are used to show important symbols or images that represent that family or their history.
- Challenge children to design their own coat of arms. They could design this based on their favourite colours and patterns, or they could include drawings of things that are important to them too.
- Children can then use the scroll section at the bottom to add their family name to complete their 'Royal Coat of Arms'.



GET INTO THE BIBLE: DEVELOPING MY FAITH

KING OF KINGS

- Start by asking the group a few questions such as "Where would a King/Queen live?", "What sort of clothes would they wear?", "What kind of lifestyle would a King/Queen have?" and so on.
- Now tell them a story about a King who did things a little bit differently to a 'traditional' King.
- Firstly this King wasn't born in a palace or in a private hospital surrounded by doctors and nurses. No, this King was born in a stable surrounded by donkeys and cows. When he was born there wasn't a fanfare, commemorative tea towels or a public bank holiday. No, instead he had just a few shepherds and three wise visitors. It was all a bit low key.
- This King wasn't rich like a normal King. He didn't have fancy palaces or jewels worth millions. No, this King owned very little and often would give away or share the little that he did have.
- Instead of being surrounded by servants, this King chose to be a servant to others. Instead of hanging out with royalty and VIPs, this King made friends with fishermen and spent time with the poor and sinners.
- Has anyone worked out which King we are talking about here? It's Jesus of course!
- People weren't happy with Jesus not acting like how they thought a King should, so they arrested and crucified him. They even put a crown of thorns on his head to make fun of him.
- Thankfully Jesus rose up from the grave and conquered death – proving once and for all that he really was the King of Kings. Whilst he might not have acted like a 'normal' King, he was the greatest of all!
- Jesus wants to be our King too, if we choose to let him. What does that mean though? It means we accept him as our friend and promise to put God at the centre of our lives.
- Finish in prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus to be our King.

 **"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth."**
Philippians 2:10



DAVID I



King: 1124 - 1153

Born: 1084

Died aged: 68/69

King aged: 40

Years as King: 29

Famous for:

- Created the first Scottish towns/boroughs such as Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Scone.
- Introduced a native Scottish currency including his own coins.



ROBERT I



King: 1306 - 1329

Born: 1274

Died aged: 54

King aged: 32

Years as King: 23

Famous for:

- Known as Robert the Bruce. He was one of the most revered warriors of his generation.
- Won Scotland's independence from England in the early 1300s.



MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS



Queen: 1542 - 1567

Born: 1542

Died aged: 44

Queen aged: 6 days old

Years as Queen: 25

Famous for:

- Mary was forced to give the throne to her son, James, the future King of Scotland & England.
- She then spent 19 years of her life held captive, before being beheaded, as Elizabeth I thought she was a threat.



WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR



King: 1066 - 1087

Born: 1027

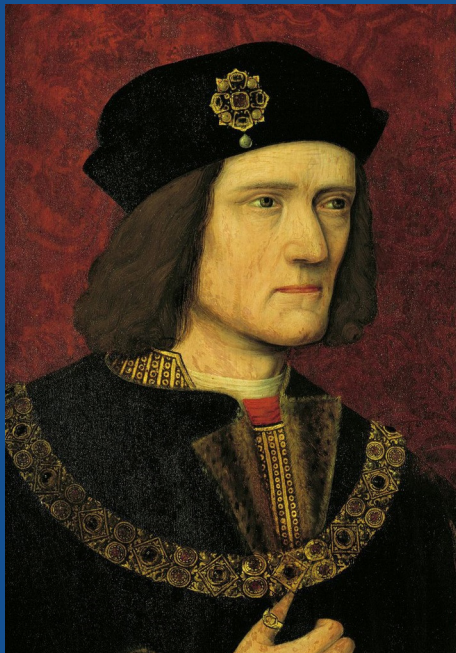
Died aged: 59

King aged: 38

Years as King: 21

Famous for:

- Leading the Norman conquest of England.
- Became King after winning the Battle of Hastings in 1066.
- Was coronated on Christmas Day 1066.



RICHARD III



King: 1483 - 1485

Born: 1452

Died aged: 32

King aged: 30

Years as King: 2

Famous for:

- His young nephew should have become King. Some believe that Richard may have killed his nephew to become King.
- Richard's body was found in a car park in Leicester in 2012.



HENRY VIII



King: 1509 - 1547

Born: 1491

Died aged: 55

King aged: 17

Years as King: 36

Famous for:

- Having six wives. Two of those wives he beheaded.
- He wasn't expected to be King, but his older brother died aged 15, making Henry the new heir to the throne.



EDWARD VI



King: 1547 - 1553

Born: 1537

Died aged: 15

King aged: 9

Years as King: 6

Famous for:

- Being the only son of Henry VIII. His mother, Jane Seymour, died 12 days after his birth.
- His successor, Lady Jane Grey, was deposed in just nine days by Queen Mary I who then became Queen.



ELIZABETH I



Queen: 1558 - 1603

Born: 1533

Died aged: 69

Queen aged: 25

Years as Queen: 45

Famous for:

- Daughter of Henry VIII & Anne Boleyn, who was beheaded by Henry, when Elizabeth was aged just 2.
- During Queen Mary's reign (her half sister), Elizabeth was put in prison for a year.



JAMES VI & I



King: 1567/1603 - 1625

Born: 1566

Died aged: 58

King aged: 1/37

Years as King: 57/21

Famous for:

- James was already King of Scotland, when he also became King of England too. This joined the two kingdoms together.
- Guy Fawkes tried to kill James in the gunpowder plot.



CHARLES I



King: 1625 - 1649

Born: 1600

Died aged: 48

King aged: 24

Years as King: 24

Famous for:

- He upset Parliament many times. For 11 years he got rid of Parliament and ruled on his own. This all led to the English Civil War.
- Charles lost the Civil War and was executed, leaving Britain without a King for 11 years.



GEORGE III



King: 1760 - 1820

Born: 1738

Died aged: 81

King aged: 22

Years as King: 59

Famous for:

- Was King during the American War of Independence, which he lost.
- Is the longest reigning King of Britain, at 59 years. Only Victoria and Elizabeth II reigned for longer.



QUEEN VICTORIA



Queen: 1837 - 1901

Born: 1819

Died aged: 81

Queen aged: 18

Years as Queen: 63

Famous for:

- Queen Victoria & Prince Albert had nine children together.
- Prince Albert died when Victoria was 42. For the rest of her life she dressed in black as a sign of mourning.



GEORGE VI



King: 1936 - 1952

Born: 1895

Died aged: 56

King aged: 41

Years as King: 16

Famous for:

- George VI was Queen Elizabeth II's father. He was never meant to be King. His brother unexpectedly abdicated, meaning the crown came to him.
- George VI was King during World War 2.



ELIZABETH II



Queen: 1952 - 2022

Born: 1926

Died aged: 96

Queen aged: 25

Years as Queen: 70

Famous for:

- Being Britain's longest ever reigning monarch, at 70 years and 214 days.
- Her coronation in 1953 was the first ever to be televised, meaning the whole nation could see her being crowned.



CHARLES III



King: 2022 - Present

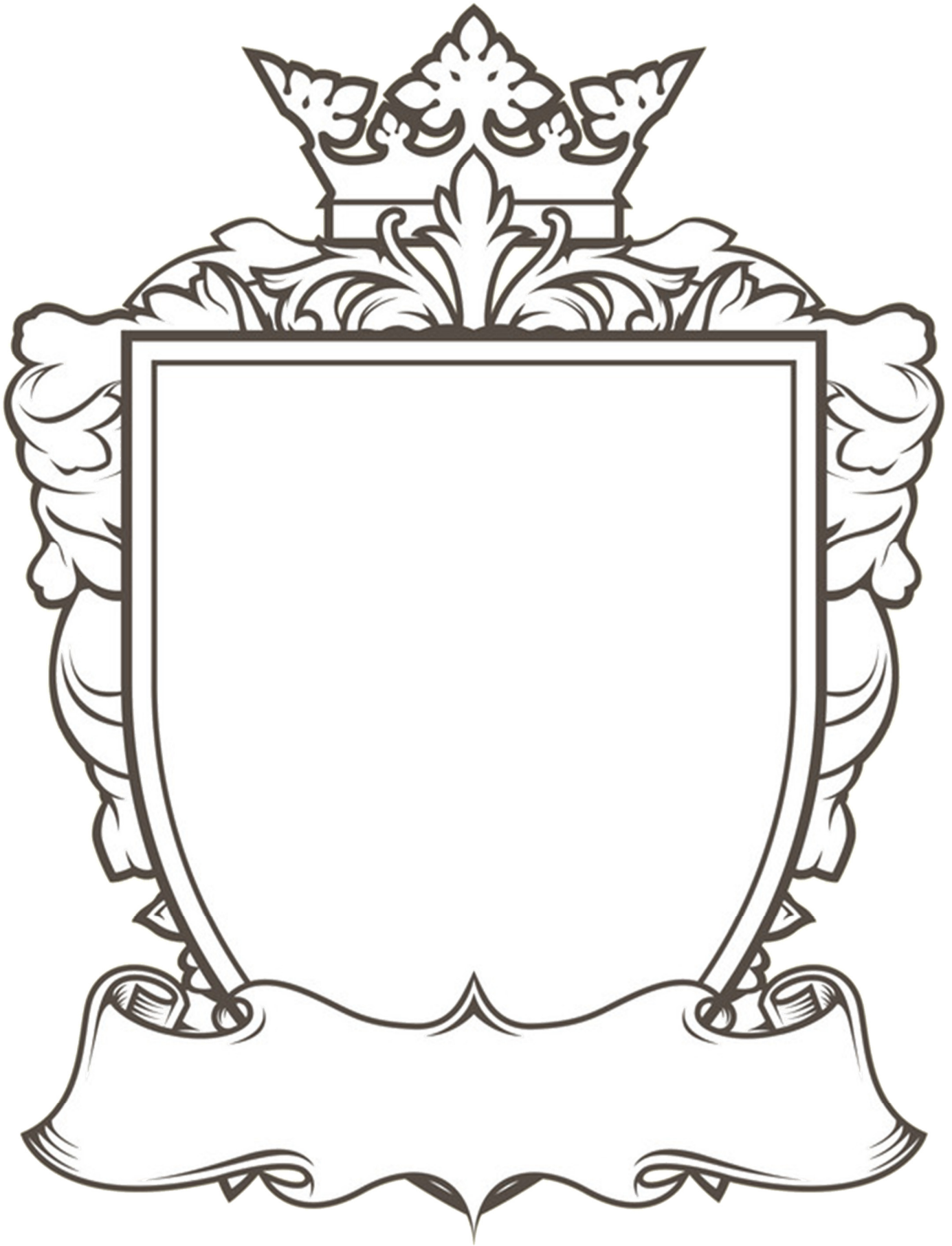
Born: 1948

King aged: 73

Famous for:

- Being the longest ever heir apparent. At 73 he was the oldest person to accede the British throne.
- Charles is the father to Princes William and Harry, who were born to Princess Diana.

MY ROYAL COAT OF ARMS



KINGS & QUEENS: TRUE OR FALSE

Henry VIII's first wife, Catherine of Aragon, used to be married to Henry's older brother

True – His older brother died, meaning Henry was next in line to be King. He also married his brother's wife, which he then divorced a number of years later.

James I (Scotland) was murdered in a sewage tunnel as he was trying to escape from those plotting to kill him.

True – He was made aware that people were coming to kill him so he tried to escape through a sewage tunnel at the palace. Unfortunately it had recently been blocked up to stop tennis balls escaping, so he was trapped.

When Buckingham Palace was first built, the architect made a scale model out of cheese to show King George III what it would look like.

False – We've completely made that up, however we reckon it's a great (and tasty) idea!

Henry III was given a polar bear by the King of Norway, which he kept in the Tower of London and let it out for swims in the river Thames.

True – Henry was gifted a 'magnificent white bear' which is believed to have been a polar bear. It would be allowed to swim in the Thames in order to catch fish.

Robert the Bruce's, King of Scotland, real name was actually Martin, but he changed it to Robert to make him sound fiercer on the battlefield.

False – Robert was a family name, with many of his ancestors also having the name 'Robert the Bruce'.

James VI & I owned an elephant, which used to drink a gallon of wine each morning.

True – The elephant was a gift to him. He kept the elephant in St James's Park and it was given a gallon of wine each morning during the winter months to help 'keep it warm'.

Queen Victoria used to have a servant sing 'God Save the Queen' every morning as she got out of bed.

False – Although she did apparently have a novelty dress (bustle) that would play the tune of 'God Save the Queen' every time she sat down in it.

Henry VIII actually had seven wives, one of which has been kept secret from the history books.

False – Henry 'only' had six wives. Two he divorced, two he beheaded, one who died after childbirth and the final one who he was still married to when he died.

King George VI once competed at Wimbledon in the men's doubles.

True – He played in the doubles tournament in 1926. He was the first and only Royal to compete in the championship. He was eliminated in the first round.