



2012

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Some notes for schools in Devon

On 6 February 2012, Queen Elizabeth II will have been Queen of the United Kingdom for 60 years – Her Diamond Jubilee.

National celebrations are planned for a long weekend 2-5 June 2012. The Queen will be visiting the South West of England on 1st and 2nd May.

This pack sets out some information about The Queen, Her role and the Diamond Jubilee, in case a school might like to mark the event with their own celebrations or to use the anniversary for a special project as part of the citizenship or history curriculum.

The Queen has a personal representative in each county in the United Kingdom, Her Lord-Lieutenant. This pack has been prepared by the Lord-Lieutenant's office for schools and other interested parties.

Some useful teaching aids

Monarchy : The Royal Family at Work, BBC Television, 2008 – a five-part BBC documentary about The Queen’s role and life, available for about £4 from Amazon (suitable for age 11+)

Our Queen, Robert Hardman, 2011 – a new, and well-reviewed, book on The Queen (suitable for sixth formers)

The Diamond Queen: Elizabeth II and Her People, Andrew Marr, 2011 (suitable for sixth formers)

The Monarchy and the Constitution, Vernon Bogdanor, OUP, 1997 (suitable for teachers and some sixth formers)

www.royal.gov.uk – The Queen’s website

www.direct.gov.uk/diamondjubilee – for information on the jubilee including

- Exhibitions
- Charities
- Environmental projects
- Digital projects
- Holding street parties

Planned celebrations

In Devon

- Special DJ Evensong in Exeter Cathedral on 27th May 2012
- Garden Party prior to and following DJ Evensong
- Devon will be represented at the Thames DJ Pageant on 3 June 2012.
- Local communities are being encouraged to organise local celebrations – details may be logged on the Devon Lieutenancy website: <http://www.lordlieutenantofdevon.org.uk/>
- An illuminated scroll is being hand prepared to congratulate HM The Queen on her 60 year reign, from the County of Devon, and will presented to HM The Queen during her Diamond Jubilee year.
- On 4 June 2012 Devon communities will be participating in the lighting of 2012 Beacons that will be lit throughout the United Kingdom – with the National beacon being lit by HM The Queen at 2230 in London.

Nationally

The Queen will visit each region of the UK in the spring and summer of 2012.

The Jubilee has a central long weekend of celebrations in London:

Sunday 3 June 2012

Big Jubilee Lunch: www.thebiglunch.com

Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant:

www.thamesdiamondjubileepageant.org/

Monday 4 June 2012 (a bank holiday)

BBC Concert at Buckingham Palace

Diamond Jubilee Beacons: www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk

Tuesday 5 June 2012 (a bank holiday)

Carriage Procession and Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's
Cathedral

Sample questions for teaching

Set out below are some questions that might be used for teaching pupils about The Queen and the Diamond Jubilee. A teaching aid then follows. Much of the material is drawn from Professor Vernon Bogdanor's book, "The Monarchy and the Constitution", published by Oxford University Press. His invaluable input to both questions and answers is gratefully acknowledged.

Seven to eleven year olds

1. Have you ever seen the Queen? Either in your own town or village - or on television?
2. Have you ever seen the Queen's Christmas broadcast on television? Can you remember what she said?
3. Do you know how she became Queen?
4. What do you think the Queen does?
5. Do you know what the National Anthem is?
6. The National Anthem includes the line 'Long to reign over us'. What does the word 'reign' mean? Does the Queen govern the country? If not, who does?
7. Do you know the names of any kings and queens in the past? Do you know what they did?
8. Do you know anything about other countries? What about America or France - do they have a king or queen? If not, why not? What about Canada or Australia? What do you think are the advantages of having a queen? Is the monarchy old-fashioned?
9. Would you like to meet the Queen? If so, what would you like to say to her?
10. 2012 is the year of the Diamond Jubilee. Do you know what the Diamond Jubilee is? Why are we celebrating it? How do you think we ought to celebrate it?

Eleven to fifteen year olds

1. Why are we celebrating the Diamond Jubilee? How do you think we should be celebrating it?
2. Do you know when the Queen came to the throne? What do you think are the main landmarks of her reign?
3. What do you think the Queen does? How do you think the Queen spends her day? What are her main tasks?
4. How did she become Queen? Do you know when the monarchy began? Was Britain ever a republic?
5. What is the role of the monarchy? Some countries, such as America and France are republics. Why are they republics? Should Britain become a republic? What are the advantages and disadvantages of a monarchy? Is the monarchy old-fashioned?
6. Do you know who is Queen of Canada, Queen of Australia?
7. Do you know what the Commonwealth is? The Queen is Head of the Commonwealth? What does that mean?
8. What is the relationship between the Queen and the government, between the Queen and the Prime Minister?
9. The Queen and the Prince of Wales act as patrons of many charitable organisations. Do you know the names of any of them? What charities do you think they should support? What else do you think that they should be doing?

Sixth Forms

1. What is a constitutional monarchy? What are the advantages of this system over a republic?
2. Why has constitutional monarchy taken such strong root in Britain?
3. What is the relationship between the Queen and her governments? The Queen sees her Prime Minister for around an hour every Wednesday when both are in London. These meetings are confidential, but the Queen can then give the Prime Minister her views on government policy. She must of course preserve her political neutrality. But, nevertheless, it has been said that the Queen has three rights "the right to be consulted, the right to encourage and the right to warn". Do you think this is right? Should the Queen have any political powers?
4. The Queen is also Queen of 15 other constitutional monarchies, including Canada, Australia and New Zealand. How can the same person be head of state of different countries? Do you think that this could give rise to conflict? Should Australia, Canada and New Zealand have their own resident heads of state?
5. The Queen is also Head of the Commonwealth? What does this mean? Do you think that the Commonwealth is a valuable body?
6. The Queen has a special relationship with the Church of England. She is Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Do you know what this means? Many people in Britain belong to other religions and denominations; some do not believe in religion at all? Does the Queen's role give the Church of England a privileged status? Is that right – can it be justified by history?
7. The Queen is head of state. What does this mean? She is also head of the nation. What does that mean? Are the two roles compatible?
8. What do you think are the main landmarks of the Queen's reign? How will she be remembered by history?
9. It has been said that the Queen's reign has seen a transition from a magical monarchy to a welfare monarchy. What does that mean? Do you agree with this view?
10. Some say that the monarchy is old-fashioned. Do you agree? If there were a referendum, would you vote to continue the monarchy or to abolish it? Give your reasons.

Aid to teaching

Have you ever seen the Queen?

Royal Wedding on 29 April 2011.

Have you ever seen the Queen's Christmas broadcast on television? Can you remember what she said?

A time to think about the past year: reflecting on big events in the life of the nation and Commonwealth.

When and how did the Queen become Queen?

The Queen became Queen on 6 February 1952. Being Queen is hereditary. The Queen became Queen because she was her father's eldest child. Her father was King George VI. She became Queen automatically when her father died – she had no choice. The Queen doesn't celebrate on 6 February, because it is a sad day for her – the day her father died.

What is the National Anthem?

"God Save the Queen (King)" is our National Anthem. All nations have their own. The words of the first two verses of the British national anthem are:

*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.*

*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.*

The National Anthem includes the line 'Long to reign over us'. What does the word 'reign' mean? Does the Queen govern the country? If not, who does?

The Queen "reigns" but does not rule – she does not govern the country. The Prime Minister governs the country. The Prime Minister is the leader of the political party with the biggest number of MPs in the House of Commons. The House of Commons is elected by the people of the United Kingdom every five years.

Britain is a "constitutional monarchy". That means that the monarch has only the powers granted to him or her by the constitution. In Britain, the constitution consists largely of Acts of Parliament.

What does the Queen do?

The Queen is our "Head of State". All countries have a Head of State. Sometimes the Head of State is a powerful politician, like the President of America and the President of France. Sometimes the Head of State is an impartial figurehead, like the Queen, the President of Germany and the President of Italy. The role of the Head of State is to represent the nation - and they can often do so better when they are not politicians.

*As **Head of State**, The Queen has three roles: Constitutional e.g. making appointments; Ceremonial, e.g. public engagements; and Symbolic representation of the nation, e.g. visiting foreign countries. As Head of State, everything reports to The Queen: it is "Her Majesty's Government" and the "Royal Navy", even "Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs".*

As Head of State, The Queen only ever acts on the advice of her elected government, but she remains responsible for many formalities. For example, every Act of Parliament and international treaty needs Her assent, but she gives that assent on the advice of the Government not on her own decision. Although The Queen has no power, she continues to have the right "to be consulted, to advise, and to warn" and so sees the Prime Minister in private each week.

Every five years, a general election determines the composition of the House of Commons. The Queen appoints the Leader of the political party with the biggest number of MPs as Her Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and his Ministerial colleagues govern the country, but only with the support of the elected House of Commons.

*The Queen has developed her own separate role as **Head of Nation**. In this role, she has four tasks: i) to interpret the nation to itself (e.g. the Christmas broadcast); ii) to provide a reassuring symbol of stability in changing times (e.g. Remembrance Sunday); iii) recognising achievement and success; and iv) supporting service (e.g. honours, garden parties, visits across the UK)*

The members of the Royal Family have roles in about 3,000 charities. The Queen is Patron of about 600, including British Legion, Royal College of Nursing, Cancer Research UK. The Prince of Wales (The Queen's eldest son) has many of his own charities (the Prince's Trust is the best known) but is also Patron of several hundred others including the Samaritans and Abbeyfield.

The Queen's favourite personal interest is breeding and racing horses.

Magical monarchy to welfare monarchy?

"Magical" in the sense that the monarchy was remote and unapproachable. "Welfare" in that it now seeks to involve itself with society and support and enhance the life of the whole nation. This evolution could be judged as the most remarkable achievement of our Queen. She has brought it about, nobody else. And if she had not wished it to be so, it would not have happened. Whether one agrees with this assessment is a matter for debate.

What about other countries?

America and France are Republics, and so do not have a king or queen. Both used to have a king but their people fought wars in C18 to get rid of kings who the people thought were ruling the country badly.

In England, we had a civil war in the 1640s. The King was executed in 1649. But the republic didn't work well and the monarchy was brought back in 1660. A few years later, in 1689, there was a further, quieter revolution when it was established that the King had to be a Protestant (not a Catholic) and largely gave up the power to rule in return for the right to reign.

Both Canada and Australia are Constitutional Monarchies, like Britain, and our Queen is separately their Queen. Many other countries have monarchs – e.g. Spain, Denmark and Sweden.

Why has constitutional monarchy taken such strong root in Britain?

Perhaps most important, a constitutional monarchy settles beyond any argument who is head of the state, and this is placed beyond any political competition. As such, the monarch can represent and be a focal point for the whole nation. Allied to this must be the dedication shown by successive kings and queens to this role. It was a long time ago now, but we should not forget that we did have a short republic, but soon reverted to monarchy.

Who is Queen of Canada, Queen of Australia?

Canada and Australia are constitutional monarchies like the UK. The Queen is separately Queen of each country where she is Queen, she just doesn't live there.

Her position as head of state of other countries has been granted by those countries themselves. It is their preference, not hers. Her role in each country will vary. Rather than leading to conflict, surely this is more likely to prevent it.

What is the Commonwealth?

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of free and independent states with equal rights. This evolved from the British Empire, with successive countries becoming self-governing. George VI changed from being Head of an Empire (Emperor in all but name) to being Head of the Commonwealth to allow India, as a newly created Republic, to remain in membership. Nearly all have elected to remain in this loose association, giving each other mutual support and as a forum where mutual interests can be pursued, and common policies formed and adopted. The Commonwealth exists for the mutual support of its members. Some members are Constitutional Monarchies under our Queen, some Monarchies in their own right and some Republics. The Queen is the representative Head of the Commonwealth. She attends all major Commonwealth Conferences, and lends her support to it continuing to perform a useful role and remain in harmony.

Past Kings and Queens?

E.g.

William I, the Conqueror – 1066 – Norman Conquest

John I – 1215 – Magna Carta – the King's government must rest on consent

Henry VIII, Elizabeth I – C16 English Reformation

James VI and I – union of the crowns of Scotland and England

Charles I and Charles II – C17 – the Commonwealth under Oliver Cromwell

William III, of Orange – 1689 – Protestant succession; the start of the modern monarchy where the monarch reigns but does not rule

Victoria – 1837-1901 – The only other monarch to reign for 60 years

What is The Queen's religion? Why?

The Queen has to be a member of the Church of England, a Christian Protestant church. She is its Supreme Governor by an Act of Parliament.

“Supreme Governor” is a title established under the 1707 Act of Union with Scotland. Under that Act, the monarch is Supreme Governor of both the Church of England and the Church of Scotland, and required to “maintain and preserve [both] inviolably.” As Supreme Governor, the sovereign must be “in communion” with the Church of England and, in the coronation, swears to maintain it. She appoints, on the advice of the Prime Minister, Archbishops, bishops and Deans of the Church of England. Both Churches, having been singled out by statute, are said to be “established”.

The Church of England is in a privileged position compared to other churches and faiths. However, the degree to which sovereign or Parliament involve themselves in its governance has been dramatically reduced over the years. Indeed, the Prince of Wales has said that he would like his coronation to be an inter-faith occasion with other faiths participating. Many Acts of Parliament on equalities, especially the Human Rights Act 1998, ensure that those of other faiths can practice that faith.

When church membership and attendance was almost universal, it was much more important that the monarch be seen as an active member of the Church of England: it was another means by which the majority of the nation felt united. As church attendance has dropped, and other faiths have become much more common, this may be less true in the future.

Why have a Queen? Should we instead have a president?

For debate!

The role of the monarchy is to lead, but not govern, the country and Commonwealth.

The main advantage of having a Queen is that she is not elected, so she can act on behalf of everyone, whoever they are, and everyone can feel she is on their side. We have had kings and queens for a very long time, but that does not mean this is old fashioned. In fact the role and power of the monarch has changed lots, to keep it up to date.

Constitutional monarchies around the world have been the most stable form of government.

Some say that a monarchy, steeped as it is in history, inhibits the social change which Britain needs to be an efficient modern society in the world of today; that it looks too much to the past rather than the future; that it is based on deference and hierarchy rather than merit. These arguments are not really tenable if one looks at Continental Europe, where Denmark, Norway and Sweden – all monarchies – are markedly more egalitarian and socially progressive than Britain. We, the people of the UK, not the Royal Family, have chosen to have the monarchy we have today.

Monarchy can be an aid to reform rather than a barrier. It provides a degree of constitutional continuity in a changing world, and change is always disorienting. Governments of every political hue have recognised the strength which the monarchy lends to a reforming government. Because our constitution provides that the sovereign always acts on the advice of Ministers, it gives legitimacy to reform of all kinds. And, of course, being without a political platform of her own, the whole nation can unite behind the Queen in a way that would not be possible if she were the elected choice of only part of her subjects. The continued success and popularity of our monarchy has been made possible because the monarchy and its role have been continually adapted to fit the times.

What is the Diamond Jubilee? Why celebrate it? How?

What? "Diamond" is the word used to say something happened 60 years ago. Jubilee" means an anniversary, or so many exact years ago. So the Diamond Jubilee year, 2012, is 60 years since our Queen became Queen.

Why celebrate? It is an opportunity to thank The Queen for her work as head of state; to take pride in being British; and to reflect on 60 years.

How celebrate? See www.direct.gov.uk/diamondjubilee and www.royal.gov.uk. National celebrations on a long weekend 2-5 June 2012.

What are the landmarks of The Queen's reign?

Landmarks could be divided into those directly involving the Queen, or brought about through her development of the role of head of nation, during her reign, and those which have happened without any involvement of hers. She will be remembered as an admired leader of the nation. Her achievements in helping steer a peaceful and smooth transformation from vestiges of Empire to the Commonwealth we know today, will live on in history. Her role should not be underestimated. Our history of peaceful devolution of colonial power is admired by many other former colonial powers.