

This pack aims to introduce students to the history of Britain's royal jubilees and explores how they contribute to the country's sense of continuity and identity. It also seeks to increase students' awareness of how Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 marked a shared moment in history for the people of the UK.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

For students to:

- Understand the significance of the Platinum Jubilee;
- Learn how past Royal Jubilees have been celebrated in the UK;
- Have a greater understanding of the role of the monarch in the UK;
- Understand that the Commonwealth is made up of people from many different countries with different faiths, cultures and traditions;
- Understand some of the ways in which the UK has changed over the last 70 years;
- Find out how their local area has celebrated in the past, and plans for the Platinum Jubilee;
- Have an increased awareness of being part of an important historical event.

THE PACK INCLUDES:

Activity Cards

These are designed for teachers and provide instructions for each activity. They include questions in **bold** to read aloud directly to students.

Activity Resources (AR)

These are designed for students to complete independently, while working with a partner or group. They need to be photocopied or printed out.

Supporting Materials (SM)

These are designed to support the lesson and individual activities. They need to be photocopied or printed out and could be laminated.

HOW TO USE THIS PACK

This pack contains a presentation and teacher's notes for one assembly.

SECONDARY:

The Secondary Assembly is targeted at KS3 but can be adapted for older students. The pack includes a slide presentation and teacher's notes consisting of background information and suggested key points that can be printed out to use as a prompt.

The assembly focusses on the significance of 2022's Platinum Jubilee as both a landmark in Britain's history and a shared celebration for all communities. It introduces the Queen's role as monarch of the UK and Head of the Commonwealth and the history of Royal Jubilees, including past Jubilee celebrations at the Tower of London. It also encourages students to think about some of the social, economic and cultural changes in the UK over the course of the Queen's 70-year reign (1952-2022).

It is envisaged that the assembly will last 10-15 minutes.

The notes include **Ideas for additional activities** that could be used by History or English teachers, or by form tutors during tutor time.

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Teachers may wish to prepare students for the assembly by introducing them to some British Kings and Queens from the past, explaining the concept of a hereditary monarchy and introducing some key vocabulary.

The Royal Family's official website has some pages on the history of Jubilees and plans for the Platinum Jubilee that teachers may find useful:

<https://bit.ly/3LVnLVL>

<https://bit.ly/3yvy2UH>

<https://bit.ly/3N2EVRA>

Suggested music

Zadok the Priest, the anthem composed by Handel for the coronation of George II:
<https://bit.ly/3rZKHem>

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR SLIDE PRESENTATION

Slide 4: The National Anthem

IMAGE: Official photo released by the Palace to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee; lyrics of the first verse of the National Anthem of the United Kingdom.

The words and tune of the National Anthem are anonymous and may date back to the 1600s. 'God Save the King' was first performed publicly in London at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, in 1745. It was so popular that the practice of singing it at the end of a play spread to other theatres. It soon became the custom to greet the monarch with the song when they entered a place of public entertainment.

Today the National Anthem is used as a salute to the monarch in the United Kingdom and around the world, and by Team GB at the Olympics. Other verses have been added over the centuries but usually only the first verse is sung.

Slide 5: Queen Elizabeth II

IMAGE: The Queen's coronation, 1953

Elizabeth II succeeded to the throne of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 6 February 1952, following the death of her father, King George VI. She was crowned in Westminster Abbey by the Archbishop of Canterbury on 2 June 1953, in a solemn religious ceremony, essentially unchanged for over a thousand years. The Queen was anointed with holy oil, received symbols of royalty such as the orb and sceptre, and was crowned with St Edward's Crown. The crown, orb and sceptre can be seen on display at The Tower of London.

Additional notes:

The Queen's coronation was the first to be televised and was watched live by 27 million people in the UK (out of a population of 37 million); a further 11 million listened to it on the radio. Hundreds of people camped out overnight in London in the rain to catch a glimpse of the Queen and the coronation procession and thousands more celebrated with street parties.

Slide 7: A constitutional monarch

IMAGE: State opening of Parliament Ceremony

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy; the Queen's power as head of state is strictly ceremonial and symbolic. She does not make any political decisions and is not expected to express political opinions.

Among the constitutional duties that she has are:

- Appointing a government: The leader of the winning party in a general election is invited to Buckingham Palace, where the Queen formally invites them to form a new government. The Queen also formally accepts the resignation of a Prime Minister and dissolves a government before a general election.
- Marking the start of the new Parliamentary year with the State Opening Ceremony, during which she will read out the government's policy ideas and plans from a throne in the House of Lords.
- Granting Royal Assent: When a piece of legislation is passed through Parliament, it must be formally agreed to by the Queen in order to become law.

Slide 8: Service to the nation

IMAGE: The Queen with a red despatch box

Red despatch boxes are delivered to the Queen every day (except Christmas Day and Easter Sunday) by government departments. The boxes include documents to which she must give royal assent by signing. Her role as head of state means that she needs to be kept informed of what is happening in Parliament and around the world.

Additional notes:

Over the last 70 years, the Queen's official engagements have included State responsibilities such as hosting banquets for visiting heads of state, attending State funerals and representing the United Kingdom on overseas tours. She has presented members of the public with their honours at Investiture Ceremonies and hosted Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace. She has given speeches, launched ships, opened schools, hospitals and community centres, attended charity events and visited members of the Armed Forces serving at home and overseas. She is also Royal patron of hundreds of charities worldwide.

Slide 10: The Commonwealth of Nations

IMAGES: Commonwealth Day 2019; The Queen signing the Commonwealth Charter, 2020

The Commonwealth is a political association of 54 independent states, most of which are former territories of the British Empire. Following the gradual dismantling of the Empire after the Second World War, most chose to become republics but still wanted to remain within the Commonwealth of Nations. The most recent country to join the Commonwealth was Rwanda in 2009.

Today the Commonwealth is home to 2.5 billion people and includes both advanced and developing economies.

Additional notes:

The Commonwealth Secretariat (an intergovernmental organisation) works all over the Commonwealth to boost trade and the economy, protect the environment, support democracy, develop society and young people through education, gender equality, health and sport.

Slide 11: Commonwealth Realms

IMAGES: The Queen's coronation dress; detail of embroidery on coronation dress

Commonwealth realms are countries that have Elizabeth II as their monarch and head of state.

Each realm is an independent state, equal with the others. In 1952, Elizabeth II was the monarch and head of state of seven independent states: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (then known as Ceylon).

The Queen's coronation dress was designed by Sir Norman Hartnell. It was Elizabeth's suggestion to include the emblems of the Commonwealth realms in the design, as well as the four national emblems of the United Kingdom.

Additional notes:

Since 1952, new realms have been created following the independence of former colonies of the British Empire, and some realms have become republics. The most recent realm to become a republic was Barbados in November 2021. Today there are 15 Commonwealth Realms, including the United Kingdom.

Slide 13: A changing society

IMAGES: Family around kitchen table, 1950s; Southam Street, West London, 1956; A mothercraft lesson, 1964.

In 1952, Britain was still recovering from the Second World War. Large areas of many towns and cities were still bombsites and rationing didn't officially end until 1954. Although average wages were rising, most people's living standards were lower than today. Few homes had central heating, fridges, washing machines, telephones or televisions.

Additional notes:

Gender roles were rigidly divided. Domestic chores and occupations such as nursing and typing were seen as women's work, whilst most jobs in engineering, manufacturing, finance and transport were the preserve of men. Even in occupations such as teaching, where men and women did identical jobs, women were paid less. Girls were taught needlework, cookery and 'mothercraft' in school while boys learned metalwork and woodwork.

Government recruitment programmes encouraged people from the Caribbean to migrate to Britain and many were employed in areas that were vital to rebuilding the British economy after the Second World War. They were often victims of racism and discrimination. In the 1960s and '70s Britain became increasingly multicultural with migrants arriving from all over the Commonwealth, particularly India, Pakistan and Uganda.

Slide 15: Celebrations past

IMAGE: Queen Victoria; Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee procession, 1887

Celebrating Royal Jubilees really started in the UK with the Golden Jubilee of George III in 1810, celebrated with feasts and firework displays in London, Windsor and around the United Kingdom. Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden and her Diamond Jubilees but not her Silver as Prince Albert had recently died.

Additional notes:

On the anniversary of her accession, Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee by holding a banquet at Buckingham Palace attended by members of various European royal families and dignitaries from around the Empire. The following day she travelled in a procession to Westminster Abbey in an open-top carriage, flanked by British and European princes, and close to a troop of Indian Cavalry. People celebrated in their local communities with fetes and fireworks, and beacons were lit across the UK that evening. Her Diamond Jubilee was marked by similar celebrations.

Slide 16: A Moment in History

IMAGES: The Queen celebrating her Golden Jubilee on tour and in the Golden State Coach; the Trooping of the Colour; a street party

To celebrate her Silver and Golden Jubilees, the Queen embarked on extensive tours of the United Kingdom and visited several Commonwealth countries.

She also travelled widely in the United Kingdom for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Celebrations for each culminated in Jubilee weekends in June. In London these included processions, firework displays, concerts and dinners. Throughout the United Kingdom and overseas, people celebrated with fancy dress parades, carnivals, sports competitions, street parties and community picnics.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 2022 culminated in events taking place over an extended four-day Bank Holiday weekend in the UK, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. In London, celebrations included The Queen's Birthday Parade (known as Trooping the Colour) and a Platinum Jubilee Pageant featuring over 5,000 people from across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Finally, a chain of Platinum Beacons were lit across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

Slide 17: Celebrations at the Tower

IMAGES: The Imperial State Crown; The Tower of London; The Silver Jubilee Pageant, 1935

The Tower of London is one of Britain's most iconic sites and home to the Crown Jewels, including the orb, sceptre, sword and crown used in the coronation ceremony, and the Imperial State Crown used on formal occasions such as the State Opening of Parliament. Ever since William the Conqueror began work on the site in the 1070s, it has had close links to the history of the monarchy.

In May 1935, George V's Silver Jubilee was celebrated at the Tower with a spectacular pageant, performed partly in the moat by a cast of two thousand amateur performers, and watched by thousands more.

In 1977, a display of flowers (begonias sent as a gift by the King of Belgium) was planted in the moat in the shape of the Royal coat of arms to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee.

In 2002, Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee was celebrated with a brand new display gallery for the Crown Jewels at the Tower of London.

Crowds gathered at the Tower in 2012 to watch the Thames River Pageant, celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Slide 19: Superbloom at the Tower 2022

IMAGES: Beefeater in the Moat; cornflower with bumble bee; preparing the Moat for Superbloom

To celebrate the Queen's historic Platinum Jubilee in 2022, the Tower's Moat was transformed into a gigantic flower meadow known as Superbloom. Over 20 million seeds were planted - flower varieties that support pollinators. The focus of the Superbloom was the relationship between nature and wellbeing. Visitors could walk through the Superbloom and experience a positive green space in the heart of London. Between May and September 2022, Superbloom attracted visitors to the UK from all over the world.

SUGGESTED KEY POINTS AND QUESTIONS

PART ONE: GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Slide 4: The National Anthem

Suggested key points

- Raise your hand if you have ever sung the National Anthem or heard it played live.
- Today we might associate it with sporting events, and winning gold medals, rather than being victorious in battle.
- None of you, or your parents, and probably very few of your grandparents, have ever sung 'God Save the King'.
- The reign of our present Queen is the longest in the thousand-year history of monarchs who can trace their ancestry back to William the Conqueror.
- In 2022 she became the first monarch to celebrate 70 years on the throne – a Platinum Jubilee – a significant historical event that we all were part of.

Slide 5: Queen Elizabeth II

- Elizabeth II became Queen in 1952, a few months before her 26th birthday and less than 7 years after the end of the Second World War.
- Her coronation took place a year later in a solemn symbolic, religious ceremony.
- The coronation was also an opportunity for the whole country to celebrate in their local communities.
- It is often said that the Queen has 'spent her life in service to her country'. But what is the Queen's role, what powers does she have and what are her duties as monarch?

PART TWO: THE ROLE OF THE QUEEN

Slide 7: A constitutional monarch

- The Queen's role as head of state is primarily symbolic.
- Britain is a constitutional monarchy; while the monarch is head of state, the power to make and pass laws rests with an elected parliament.
- The Queen has a weekly private meeting with the Prime Minister, but the PM doesn't seek her approval for policies.
- As head of state, the Queen undertakes various symbolic duties that have developed over the last one thousand years, including the State Opening of Parliament Ceremony.

Slide 8: Service to the nation

- If the Queen has limited powers, does that mean that she doesn't have very much to do?
- Red despatch boxes containing important documents are delivered to the Queen every day except on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday.
- The majority of the Queen's work for the past 70 years has been made up of official engagements, which can be anything from an important state occasion to a visit to a youth group.
- Although the Queen has cut back on her official engagements in recent years due to her age, she still carried out almost 300 in 2019 at the age of 93.

PART THREE: THE COMMONWEALTH

Slide 10: Commonwealth Realms

- So, Elizabeth II is Queen of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland? Yes, but she's not just Queen of the United Kingdom.
- In 1952 she also became monarch and head of state of six other independent countries.
- She asked for the emblems of these countries to be included in the design of her coronation dress.
- Today Elizabeth II is Queen of 14 countries in addition to the UK and over 150 million people.
- These countries are known as Commonwealth realms.

Slide 11: The Commonwealth of Nations

- The Queen is also Head of the Commonwealth of Nations, usually just called the Commonwealth.
- The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 independent and equal countries, including the Commonwealth Realms.
- The member governments have agreed to working towards shared goals of prosperity, democracy and peace.
- As Head of the Commonwealth, the Queen is a figurehead and symbol of unity.
- Today the Commonwealth is home to one third of the world's population. It is made up of people of many different faiths, cultures and traditions.

PART FOUR: 70 YEARS OF CHANGE

Slide 13: A changing society

- The Queen's reign has seen enormous social, cultural and economic change in the United Kingdom.
- Most people's standard of living is higher today than in 1952.
- Modern homes are equipped with modern appliances that were considered luxury items or hadn't been invented in 1952.
- There is much greater gender equality in homes, workplaces and public life.
- The United Kingdom has become a more racially and culturally diverse society.

PART FIVE: ROYAL JUBILEES

Slide 15: Celebrations past

- Royal Jubilees have been celebrated in the United Kingdom for over 200 years.
- King George III celebrated his Golden Jubilee in 1810.
- Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1887 and her Diamond Jubilee in 1897.
- Lavish celebrations for these Jubilees centred on London, as the capital, but people also celebrated around the United Kingdom and what is now the Commonwealth.

Slide 16: A Moment in History

- The Queen has celebrated four Jubilees: Silver, Gold, Diamond and Platinum.
- These have been marked with celebrations throughout the United Kingdom and Commonwealth, both local and national.

Slide 17: Celebrations at the Tower

- The Tower of London is an iconic site in central London and an historic royal palace.
- Today it houses the Crown Jewels when they are not in use for official occasions.
- The Tower has a history of celebrating Royal Jubilees, including the Queen's and her grandfather's, King George V.
- In 2022, a spectacular field of wildflowers called the Superbloom filled the moat to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

SECTION TITLE: THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

Slide 19: A Moment in History

- Why was the Platinum Jubilee so special?
- Queen Elizabeth I was the first monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee in the one-thousand-year history of the British monarchy since William the Conqueror.
- The celebrations included spectacular events in central London and local events around the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. (Include details of local events, if known.)
- We were all part of an extraordinary historical event. Perhaps you will tell your children, grandchildren and even your great-grandchildren all about it in the future!

IDEAS FOR ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- IN LOCAL NEWS

Research how previous Royal Jubilees have been celebrated in your local community. Your local museum may have a special exhibition or display in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee. Many community groups and local newspapers have posted photos online. Talk to members of your family about which Jubilees they remember and how they celebrated; ask if they have any photos.

Imagine you work for a local newspaper that wants to run a feature on how Royal Jubilees have been celebrated in your area in the past. Focus on one of the Jubilees and write up your report, making some comparisons with national celebrations. If possible, include archive photographs and quotes from local residents.

- TIMELINE OF CHANGE

Queen Elizabeth's reign has seen many changes in the UK, and major advances in science and technology.

Using the link below as a starting point, and a large sheet of paper for each decade, create a class timeline of the events and advances that you think have been most significant. Include local, national and world events.

<https://bit.ly/3smVkIn>

- A CULTURE OF CHANGE

The term 'teenager' was used for the first time in 1957, just 5 years into the Queen's reign. After the Second World War the teenage years had begun to be recognised as a separate stage in life, between childhood and adulthood. Combined with a rise in living standards and more leisure time, this led to the emergence of a separate youth culture.

Find out about youth culture in Britain in the 1950s and 60s. Choose one area such as fashion, music, or 'tribes' to research in depth. Present your findings in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

SECONDARY ASSEMBLY

**GOD SAVE
THE QUEEN**

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

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.



QUEEN ELIZABETH II



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THE ROLE OF THE QUEEN

A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCH



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SERVICE TO THE NATION



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THE COMMONWEALTH

THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS



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COMMONWEALTH REALMS



70 YEARS OF CHANGE

A CHANGING SOCIETY



© Museum of London



ROYAL JUBILEES

CELEBRATIONS PAST



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A MOMENT IN HISTORY



CELEBRATIONS AT THE TOWER



THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

SUPERBLOOM AT THE TOWER 2022

