

# Queen Victoria

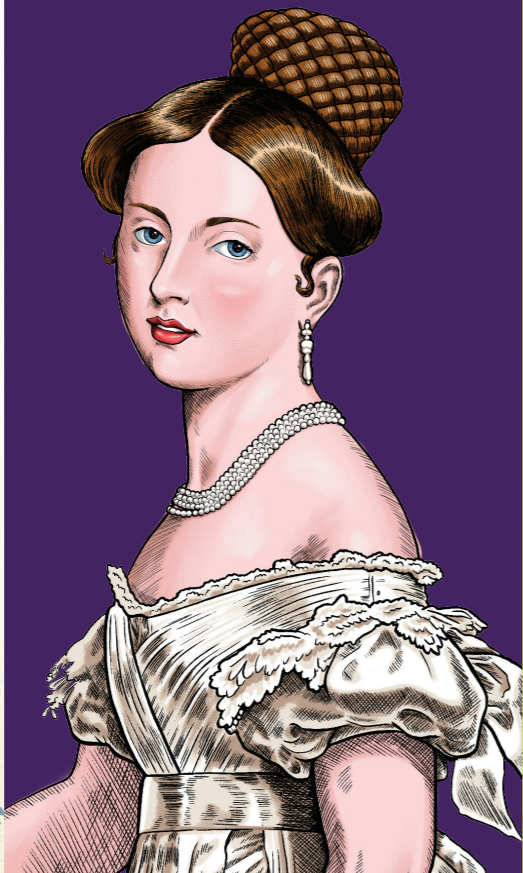
**Location: Victoria, A Royal Childhood Route**

The future Queen Victoria was born on 24th May 1819 in the dining room at Kensington Palace. It seems a strange choice, but here hot water could be brought up more easily from the kitchens.

Princess Victoria had a privileged but highly controlled childhood at Kensington Palace. Overseen by her mother, the Duchess of Kent and the controller of the household, Sir John Conroy, she grew up under a strict set of rules that became known as the Kensington 'System'.

As a young girl, Princess Victoria filled her days with lessons in history, the succession, art, drawing, and piano. She loved animals, including her pet spaniel Dash, and enjoyed outings to the seaside, theatre, and ballet.

At only 18 years old, she became Queen, and she held her first council meeting in the Red Saloon at Kensington Palace.



**Look out for the list of Kensington System Rules.**

**Which would you find hardest to follow?**

# Sarah Churchill the Duchess of Marlborough

**Location: King's Gallery**

Sarah Churchill was the closest confidante of Queen Anne.

When Anne became Queen in 1702, Sarah was given the titles Keeper of the Privy Purse, Groom of the Stole, and Lady of the Bedchamber.

Throughout their decades-long relationship, Sarah and Anne exchanged countless letters, referring to each other as 'Mrs Morley and Mrs Freeman' so that they were, in Anne's words, 'equals'.

Sadly their relationship began to fail. The Queen was beginning to replace Sarah with a new favourite, Abigail Masham. The last time Anne and Sarah spoke was an argument in Queen Anne's apartments at Kensington Palace.



**Part of how Queen Anne and Sarah expressed their closeness was through nicknames.**

**If you had to choose a fun nickname that your friends would use for you, what would it be and why?**



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

## Women of Kensington Palace



**SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED**

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

## Queen Caroline of Ansbach

**Location: King's State Apartments**

Queen Caroline of Ansbach was an influential queen consort, wife to George II.

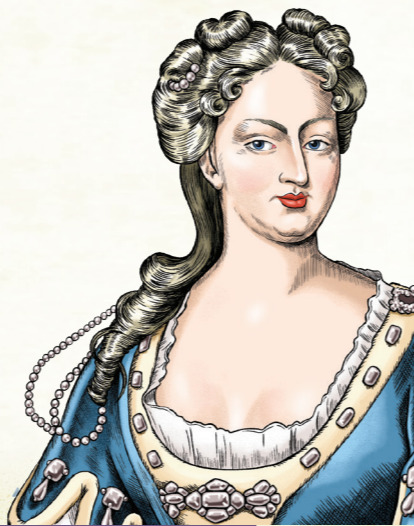
She was very intelligent, and enjoyed reading, the arts, and science. She held receptions for important and intellectual people, such as the composer Handel and the scientist Sir Isaac Newton. She invited Newton to conduct experiments exploring refraction, filling the palace with rainbows for her guests.

Queen Caroline had a large collection of books and a cabinet of curiosities. This cabinet included items of scientific interest like coral and precious stones, but also contained 'unicorn horns' (which were actually Arctic narwhal tusks).

Her interest in science included championing the development of medicine, and she supported the first trials in England of inoculation for smallpox.

**Imagine the cabinet of curiosities, filled with discoveries from all over the world.**

**What would the items look like and feel like? What would you add?**



## Diana

**Princess of Wales**

**Location: The Sunken Garden**

Diana, Princess of Wales lived in Kensington Palace after her marriage to King Charles III.

Growing up, she had a particular passion for music, dance, and science, and as an adult was a patron of the English National Ballet. Her fashion was celebrated in her lifetime, and is now iconic.

One of her most defining achievements were the many charities she supported throughout her life. She used her privilege and fame to help bring attention to many issues, such as the use of landmines in war and challenging the stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS.

Diana was particularly fond of the Sunken Garden at Kensington Palace, which is now dedicated to her memory and includes a statue of her. She enjoyed the elegant floral displays that our gardeners still create and maintain today.

**Notice the shapes, colours, and scents of the plants.**

**Do you have a favourite flower or plant? What is it?**



## Princess Louise

**Location: East Front Victoria Statue**

Princess Louise was one of Queen Victoria's nine children and was highly creative.

She had lessons in watercolour and drawing as a small child. This talent led her to receive private tuition in sculpting and later to attend The National Art Training School.

Louise became one of the first royals to publicly be an artist.

At the front of Kensington Palace, there is a large sculpture of her mother, Queen Victoria, created by Louise.

Louise was also a supporter of women's suffrage and women's education. She wrote to important social reformers of the day, like Josephine Butler and Elizabeth Garrett, and helped set up the Girls' Public Day Schools Trust.

**If you were to build a statue of someone in your life, who would it be and why?**



## Sophia Duleep Singh

**Location: The Stone Hall**

Princess Sophia Duleep Singh was a strong and determined woman. She was the daughter of Maharajah Duleep Singh, the last Maharajah of Punjab, and the god-daughter of Queen Victoria.

Sophia is best known for her work as a suffragette. She fought for women to have the right to vote, and used her money, her position, and her strong voice to stand up for women's rights.

Kensington Palace is the childhood home of Sophia's godmother, Queen Victoria. Sophia lived at Hampton Court Palace with her sisters, Bamba and Catherine, and was often seen walking her dogs in the palace grounds.

She also sold copies of *The Suffragette* newspaper outside the palace to spread her message.

Sophia cared deeply about fairness and equality. She supported many people and causes, especially those that affected Indian communities. Like her sister Catherine, Sophia spent her life supporting others and fighting for equality.

**Standing at the centre of the palace, close your eyes and imagine how many powerful people have stood where you are now.**

**Can you think about something important to you, that you would want to speak to them about?**

