

Queen Elizabeth II



The dynasty from which Queen Elizabeth II descended

Elizabeth was born in Mayfair, London, to the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth). Her father ascended the throne in 1936 after the abdication of his brother, King Edward VIII, making Elizabeth a pretender



The birth of Queen Elizabeth II

Elizabeth was born in 1926 as the elder daughter of Prince Albert and his wife, Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. Young Elizabeth had little chance of ascending the throne until her uncle Edward VIII (later Duke of Windsor) abdicated in favor of her father on December 11, 1936. Her father became King George VI and she automatically succeeded the throne.



Queen Elizabeth II childhood

When 10-year-old Elizabeth became the alleged heir to the throne after the abdication of Edward VIII in 1936, her father, George VI, who headed the monarchy, immediately began to prepare his daughter for the role of the future queen. (Known for his lack of confidence, George was constantly anxious about his position. "I never wanted that to happen," he told Louis "Dick" Mountbatten in tears after Edward's unexpected resignation from his throne. "I've never even seen a state newspaper. I'm a naval officer, that's the only thing I know about," he added).

To make her feel better prepared than he was, George VI commissioned Eton College lecturer Henry Marten to teach his daughter the basics of British history and law. Every week Elizabeth left Windsor Castle to meet him. Henry Marten, a true eccentric, let his ravens fly around the leather-bound volumes that filled his study while he questioned the young princess. As a result, every Prime Minister during the Queen's reign complimented her extremely detailed knowledge of British law. At home, during her "quiet reading" time, Elizabeth studied the classics of the Western canon, from Charles Dickens to Jane Austen.



However, it was the queen's other childhood interests that became her lifelong passion. Under the guidance of Queen Elizabeth - the future Queen Mother - the princess began to write a diary every evening. She has consistently continued this practice each evening since the coronation of George V. He in turn taught her to horseback riding in Windsor Great Park, which remains one of her favorite pastimes, and gave her her first corgi, Dookie. The future monarch completely fell in love with this breed, breeding up to a dozen puppies, and dogs ran around her "like a moving carpet", as Diana, Princess of Wales, put it.

The service and youth of Queen Elizabeth II during World War II

World War II was an extremely difficult experience for many millions of people in Europe. The representatives of the governments of the countries fighting in the conflict could count on much better conditions, especially when they came from the royal family. However, those who think that the aristocrats were not involved in the day-to-day activities for the benefit of the state, the army or the arms industry would be wrong. Many of them exemplified dedication and courage, though few had had the opportunity to serve in the army directly. This narrow group could include the future Queen Elizabeth II. The British heiress to the throne was not idle during the war.

She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service, established in 1938, a paramilitary organization grouping women whose skills could benefit the army during an armed conflict. At the beginning of the war, the princess was mainly involved in propaganda activities, giving numerous speeches and holding meetings to encourage the British to fight. In 1940, she spoke to children, giving them hope and encouragement. She herself was only 14 years old at the time! When she turned 16, she visited a military unit for the first time.

Perhaps, however, the experience that shaped the young princess the most was World War II. Contrary to the advice of the royal advisers, who feared for her safety, Elizabeth remained at Windsor Castle throughout the conflict. (As the queen mother told the courtiers, "The children will not go without me. I will not leave the king. And the king will never leave Windsor). Instead, Elizabeth worked to grow vegetables, as encouraged by the state-wide "Gardens of Victory" campaign, joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service and organized Christmas pantomimes for Berkshire residents, in which she appeared alongside Princess Margaret. Below we present the most beautiful photos of Queen Elizabeth II from her childhood.



Two years later, at her request, she wanted to join the Auxiliary Territorial Service. There she was assigned the position of a regular employee and delegated to a driving license course. She was supposed not only to learn how to drive, but also to become a mechanic. Barbara Maranzani wrote about her ministry: "She learned to disassemble, repair and rebuild engines, and change tires, and how to drive any machine she worked on, including jeeps, trucks and an ambulance." In one post-war article, Elizabeth's involvement was described in a rather vivid way: "One of her greatest joys was getting her nails dirty and making greasy stains on her hands, which she later showed to her friends." It's hard to say how well she was handling the vehicles. Of course, it should be borne in mind that the British used the involvement of the future queen mainly for propaganda purposes. Many archival photographs have survived, in which Elżbieta poses next to the truck. Her parents, the British royal couple, visited her while they were working, which was widely reported in the press.

Her service and dedication from the beginning of the war were an example for hundreds of women who willingly joined ATS, joining the ranks of the organization supporting the army on many levels. Elizabeth herself worked for her reputation and the love of the nation - it was not without reason that for several decades of her rule she became a symbol not only of the monarchy, but also of Great Britain.



Marriage and children Elizabeth II met Philip, son of Prince Andrzej Grecki and Alicja Battenberg in 1934, during the wedding of Princess Marina and Prince Gregory of Kent. Over the next decade, they met several times, incl. in 1939, Philip showed Elizabeth around the Britannia Royal Naval College [41] [42]. In 1946, Philip, despite the opposition of the British aristocracy, obtained King George VI's consent to marry his daughter, and in August 1946 he proposed heir to the throne on a hill at Balmoral Castle. On July 9, 1947, the engagement of Elizabeth and Philip was officially announced]. The wedding took place on November 20, 1947 at Westminster Abbey .The ceremony was broadcast live on radio and televised .About 2,000 guests took part in the wedding, including King Faisal II of Iraq, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and his wife, Princess Juliana, and Hereditary Grand Duke of Luxembourg John and his sister, Princess Elizabeth [40]. The young couple spent their honeymoon in the Broadlands, the estate of Louis Mountbatten. In the years 1949–1951 Elżbieta lived in Villa Guardamangia in Malta, where, after the wedding, Filip left to continue his military service .With Philip she had four descendants, they are: Charles III (born November 14, 1948), Prince of Wales, King of Great Britain from 2022 Anna (born August 15, 1950), Royal Princess, wife of Mark Phillips, then Timothy Laurence Andrzej (born February 19, 1960), Duke of York Edward (born March 10, 1964), Earl of Wessex



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In the summer of 1951, King George VI's health deteriorated significantly, and Princess Elizabeth represented him at various other state ceremonies.

Elizabeth's path to the throne was accelerated by the abdication of her uncle and the early death of her father, King George VI. She became queen in February 1952 at the age of 25, and at the time of her official coronation in June 1953, she was 27 years old. The event was broadcast on television for the first time. This decision was made by Elizabeth, clearly encouraged by her husband, Philip.



Queen Elizabeth II reigns

A.)

Queen Elizabeth II. The beginning and end of an era Elizabeth, the queen of the jet era, has made over 90 state visits and has also traveled around Commonwealth countries. By designing the symbolism of the crown, she has helped to tighten ties with allies and smooth out tense relationships in places such as India, Russia, South Africa and Ireland.

B.)

Queen Elizabeth II never gave an interview. However, she did find ways to connect with her subjects, including through the annual Christmas message, which is a central part of British Christmas traditions. As head of state, the Queen must remain strictly neutral in political matters. Under the convention, the Queen does not vote or stand for election, but has an important ceremonial and formal role vis-à-vis the Government of Great Britain.



Queen of Great Britain Residences After their coronation, Elizabeth and Philip moved to Buckingham Palace in central London, from 1837 the official residence of British kings and queens. The Queen, however, did not like the palace and preferred to stay in Windsor Castle, 15 km west of London. The Queen spent a lot of time at Holyrood House in Edinburgh, which was her official residence as Queen of Scotland, and where she would stay at least a week a year. The Queen's country residences were also Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire and Sandringham House in Norfolk. The state residences were also the Palace of St. James (the official residence of kings until 1837, from this time the diplomatic expression St James Court, where ambassadors are still accredited), Hampton Court in the suburbs of London, Kensington Palace and Marlborough House. These residences are maintained by the State, with the exception of Sandringham and Balmoral, which are private residences [footnote needed]. Travels Map of Queen Elizabeth II's visits abroad. The Queen has traveled extensively abroad, visited most European and many non-European countries. In the years 1953–1954, she and her husband set off on a 6-month trip around the world, being the first monarch to do so. She was also the first queen of Australia, New Zealand and the Fiji Islands to visit these countries. In February 1961, she visited Ankara, being a guest of President Cemal Gürsel. Later, she made her first visit to India and Pakistan. In October 1957 she went on a state visit to the United States. She also came to Canada, where she opened a parliamentary session. She also spoke at the UN General Assembly. In 1959, she went on another visit to Canada and visited the United States. She ate her farewell dinner at the Canadian embassy in Washington, accompanied by President Eisenhower. She visited the USA in 1976, where she took part in ceremonies alongside President Gerald Ford. She visited the country again in 1991 at the invitation of George H.W. Bush. On this visit, she was the first British ruler to attend Congress. The US also visited the US in May 2007 under the presidency of George W. Bush. In March 1996 she came to Poland at the invitation of President Aleksander Kwasniewski.



Commonwealth of Nations Kingdoms-territories and protectorates ruled by Elizabeth II from 1952. The British empire was in a state of disintegration since 1926, when the so-called the Balfour Declaration, confirmed by the Westminster Statute in 1931, recognized the sovereignty of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the South African Union and Newfoundland. In 1931, these countries became part of the Commonwealth of Nations, headed by the British monarch. Before the accession of Elizabeth II to the throne, India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Ireland gained independence.

The reign of Elizabeth II was a period of further disintegration of the British empire. Independence was obtained by: Ghana (1957), Nigeria (1961), Sierra Leone (1961), Tanganyika (1961), Jamaica (1962), Trinidad and Tobago (1962), Uganda (1962), Kenya (1963), Malawi (1964), Malta (1964), Gambia (1965), Guyana (1966), Barbados (1966), Mauritius (1968), Fiji (1970), Bahamas (1973), Grenada (1974), Papua New Guinea (1975), Islands Solomon (1978), Tuvalu (1978), Saint Lucia (1979), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (1979), Belize (1981), Antigua and Barbuda (1981), and Saint Kitts and Nevis (1983). All these countries gained independence as kingdoms linked to a personal union with the British Crown, but many of them (India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Malta, Gambia, Guyana, Mauritius and Fiji) abolished the monarchy and became republics, although all remained members of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Elizabeth II was considered the head of state in 21 countries around the world. On November 30, 2021, Barbados broke its personal union with Great Britain and became a republic

Jubilees of reign In 1977, she celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the 25th anniversary of her reign. In 2002, she celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the 50th anniversary of her reign. This year she went on a journey through the countries of the Commonwealth of Nations. A classical music concert was held in the garden of Buckingham Palace, and the next day the first rock concert in the history of the palace, which gathered 12,000. people in the audience. The main religious ceremonies were held in the Cathedral of St. Paul. On the occasion of the Jubilee, a commemorative medal was issued, which was awarded to distinguished citizens of Great Britain and Canada. In June 2022, she celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of the 70th anniversary of her reign



Death of the Queen of England and funeral

Death of Queen Elizabeth II. Events moved quickly On September 8, 2022, Queen Elizabeth II died at the age of 96. She sat on the British throne for over 70 years. While the world expected that day to come, the death of the British Queen shocked many people. The more that the events happened quickly. Just two days earlier, Elizabeth II had hosted Liz Truss, entrusting her with the mission of forming a new government. In the photo taken at that time, the smiling queen greets the new prime minister. She seemed to be in pretty good shape, although even then the bruises on her hand were noteworthy.

Britain said goodbye to Queen Elizabeth II today. The funeral service dedicated to the monarch began at 11:00 am London time (12:00 pm Polish time) at Westminster Abbey. The celebrations lasted until late evening. At 8:30 PM Polish time, the coffin with the body of Elizabeth II was placed in the tomb in the George VI Memorial Chapel at Windsor Castle. Only the closest family participated in this part of the funeral ceremonies. Elizabeth II died on September 8 - three months after the celebration of the Platinum Jubilee - at the age of 96. She was the longest-reigning British monarch in history. We followed the events in London in our special coverage.



Thank you for watching the presentation



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