

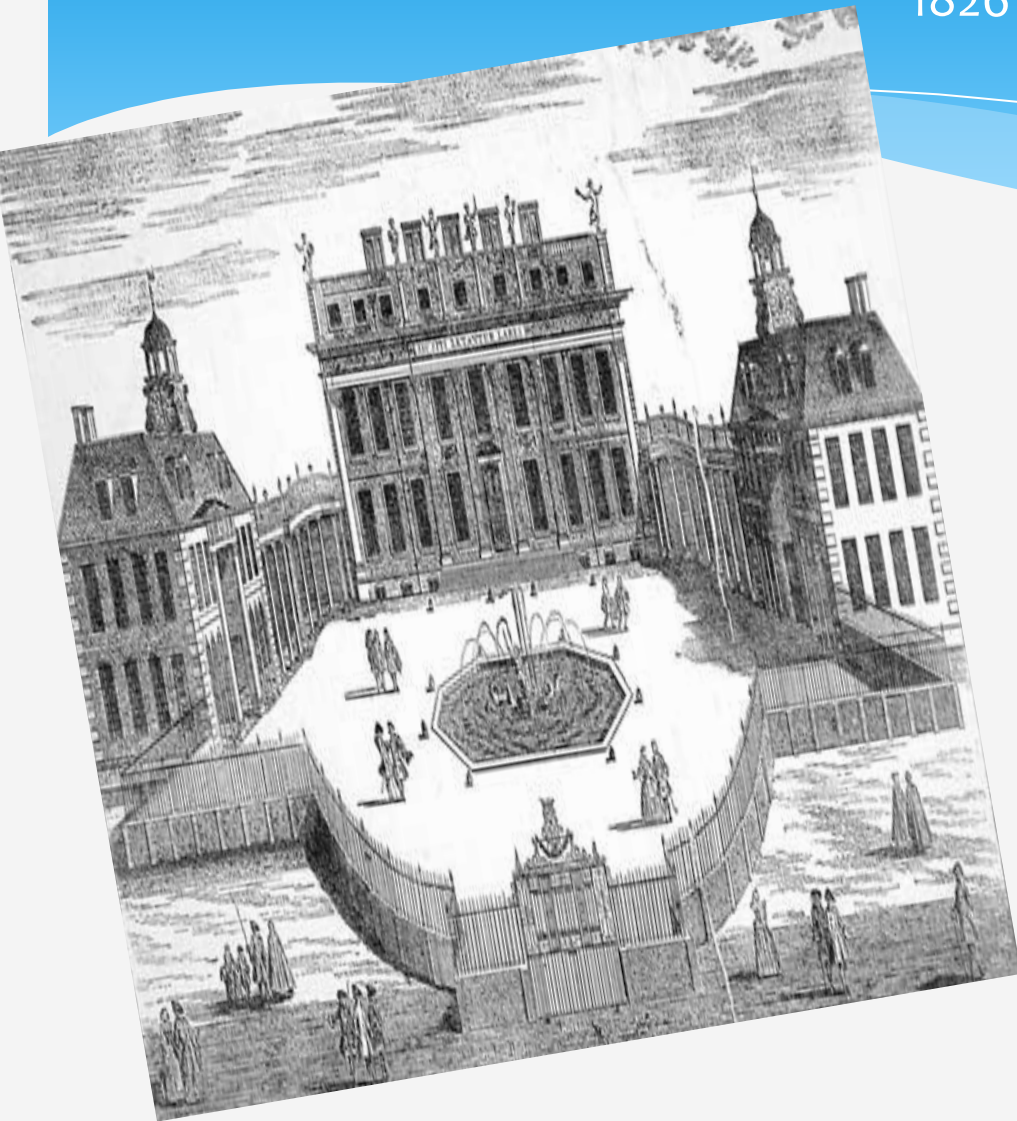
Buckingham Palace



London is one of the few places in the world where you can visit a real royal place. Buckingham Palace is where Queen Elizabeth II lives much of her time.



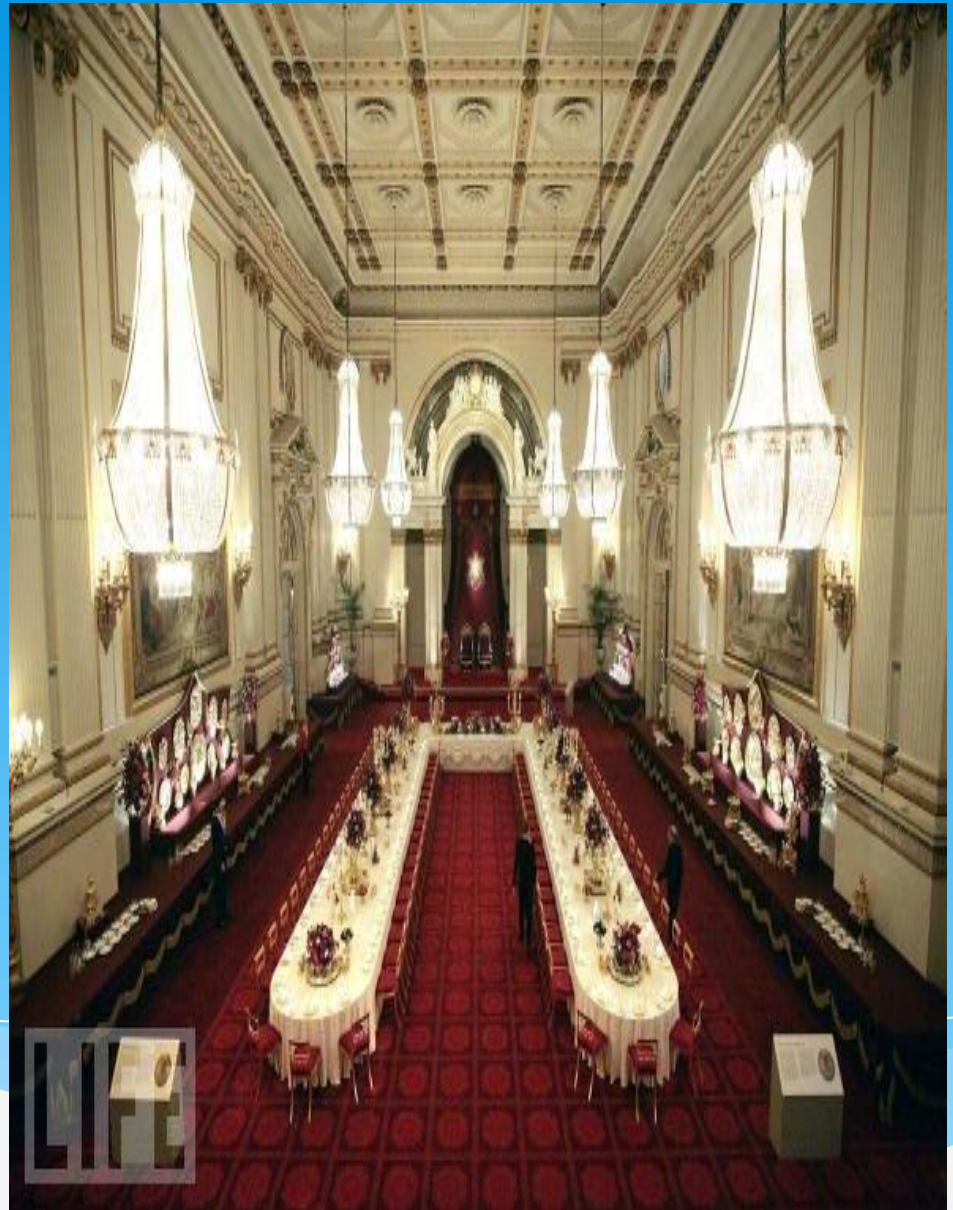
Buckingham Palace was originally a grand house built by the Dukes of Buckingham for his wife. George IV began transforming it into a palace in 1826



Queen Victoria was the first monarch to live at Buckingham Palace. She came to the throne in 1837 at the age of eighteen.



Buckingham Palace is enormous. There are 600 rooms, 78 bathrooms, a cinema, a swimming pool and even a post office. The Ballroom is the largest room. It is used for important banquets, at which 160 guests are seated at a long horseshoe-shaped table.



Some of the rooms are named and decorated for special visitors.



The balcony of Buckingham Palace is one of the most famous balconies in the world. The members of the Royal Family appear on the balcony on special occasions to greet the people.



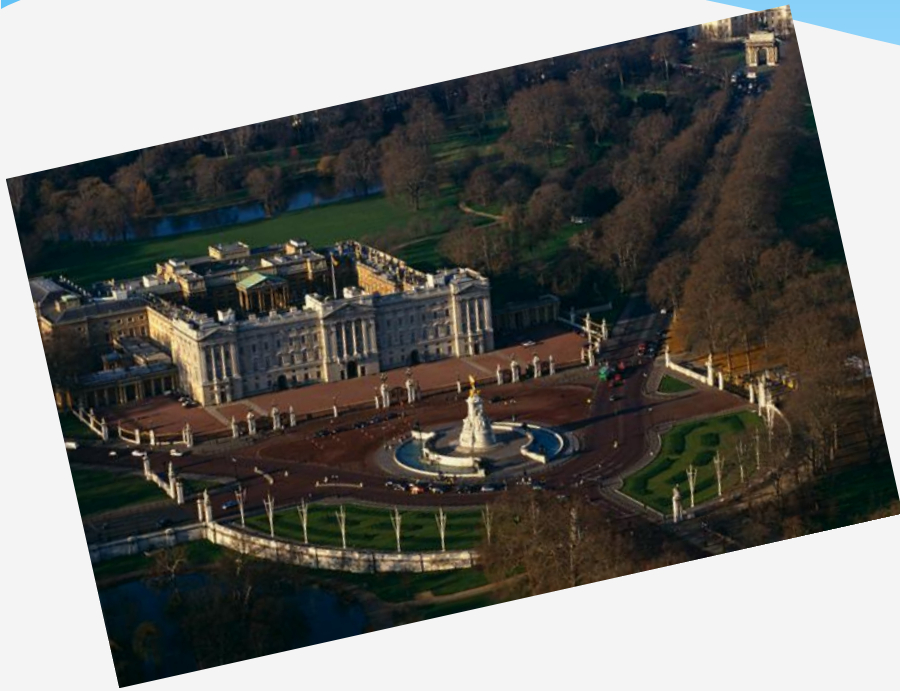
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Принц Уильям и Кэтрин, герцогиня Кембриджская, на балконе Букингемского дворца, Лондон, 29 апреля 2011:

When the Queen is on holiday in summer, the Palace opens to the public. You can visit it and see a lot of interesting things.



There is a beautiful park-like garden around the palace. It is home to 30 different kinds of birds and more than 350 different wild flowers.



The Queen Victoria Memorial in front of Buckingham Palace. It was created by sculptor Sir Thomas Brock in 1911.

