

# The Queen

Elizabeth II



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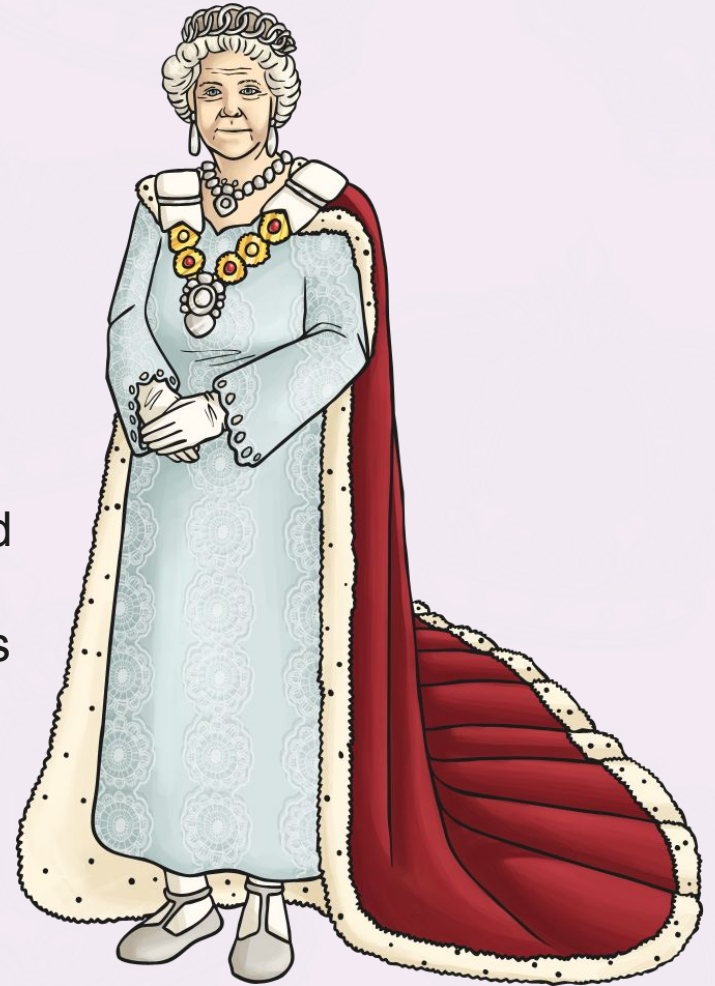
# Who is Queen Elizabeth II?

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, later to become Queen Elizabeth II, was born on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1926 in Mayfair, London.

She was the first child of The Duke and Duchess of York, who later became King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

The Queen's birthday is officially celebrated in Britain on the second Saturday of June each year. This special day is referred to as 'The Trooping of the Colour'.

The Queen is also known as the British Sovereign.



# Trooping of the Colour



# Elizabeth's Family

In 1936, King Edward VIII stepped down from the throne.

Elizabeth's father was crowned King George VI. Her mother became Queen Elizabeth and Elizabeth and her sister Margaret were now princesses (all in the photo below).



# Elizabeth's Youth

Princess Elizabeth was taught at home, not at school. She studied art and music and enjoyed drama and swimming.

When she was 11, she joined the Girl Guides.

Elizabeth undertook her first public engagement on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, when she inspected the soldiers of the Grenadier Guards.

During the Second World War, Elizabeth served in the army as a mechanic.

Picture: Elizabeth in her army uniform, 1945



# The Royal Family

Elizabeth got married in Westminster Abbey on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1947, when she was 21 years old.

Her husband Prince Philip, also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, was the son of Prince Andrew of Greece.

In 1948, the Queen's first child, Prince Charles, was born.

Two years later, Princess Anne was born. Elizabeth would go on to have two more children: Prince Andrew in 1960 and Prince Edward in 1964.



# Elizabeth Becomes Queen

In 1952, when she was just 25, Elizabeth's father, King George VI, died. Elizabeth was in Kenya when she heard the sad news. She immediately returned home and it was decided that Elizabeth would be queen.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's coronation took place in 1953 at Westminster Cathedral in London. The Queen celebrated her Golden Jubilee, 50 years since her accession to the throne, in 2002 and her Diamond Jubilee, marking 60 years since her accession, in 2012.



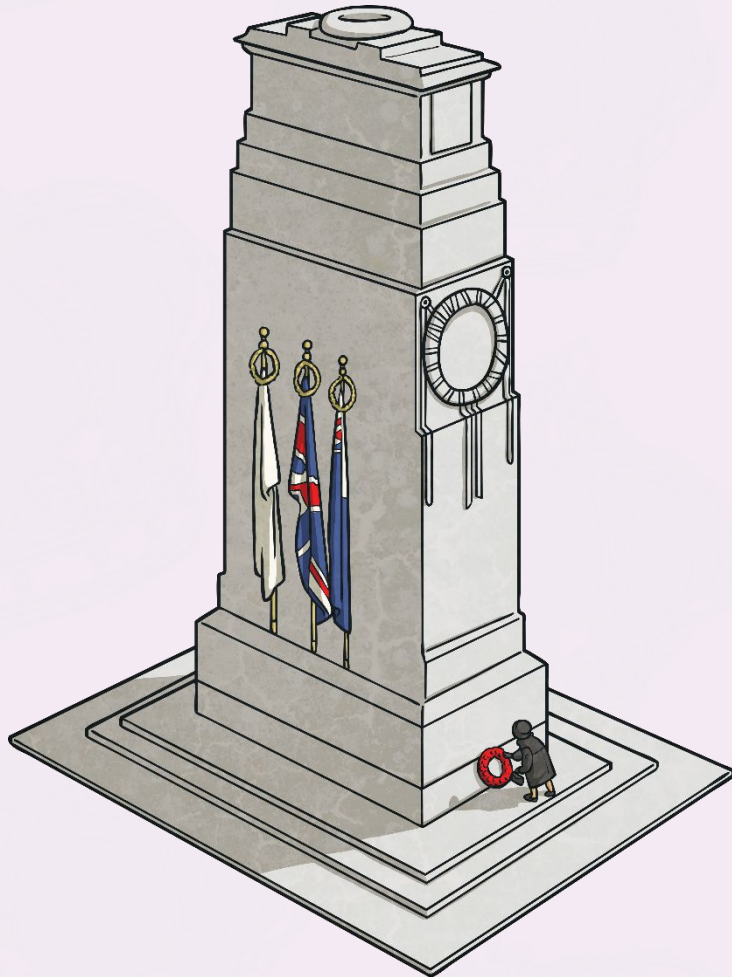
# The Role of the Queen

The Queen does not govern the country. However, she does carry out many important tasks on behalf of the nation.

- The Queen is Head of the Church of England. She appoints Bishops and Archbishops on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- The Queen is Head of the Armed Forces, and is the only person who can declare and end war with other countries.
- The Queen must remain impartial in matters of Government and is not allowed to vote. However, she meets weekly with the Prime Minister and opens Parliament, amongst other duties.



# Representing the Country



As Head of State, the Queen travels abroad on official state visits. She also invites other Heads of State from around the world to visit the U.K.

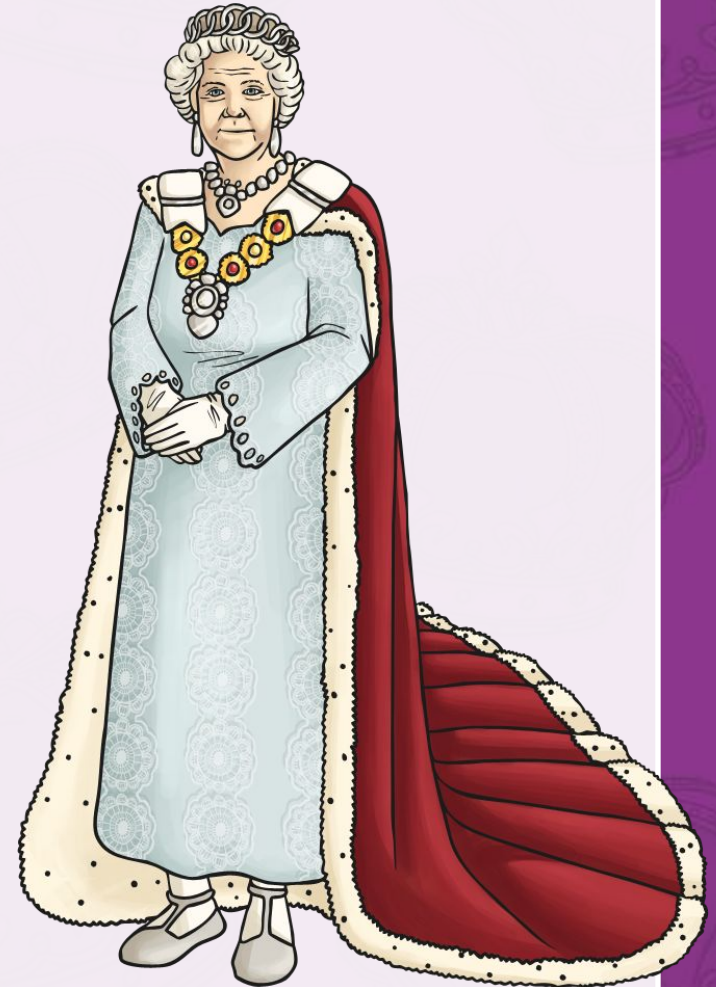
The Queen represents the country at times of celebration or sorrow. One of her most important duties is on Remembrance Sunday, when the Queen lays a wreath at the Cenotaph in London to remember members of the armed forces who have died fighting for their country.

# The Queen and the Commonwealth

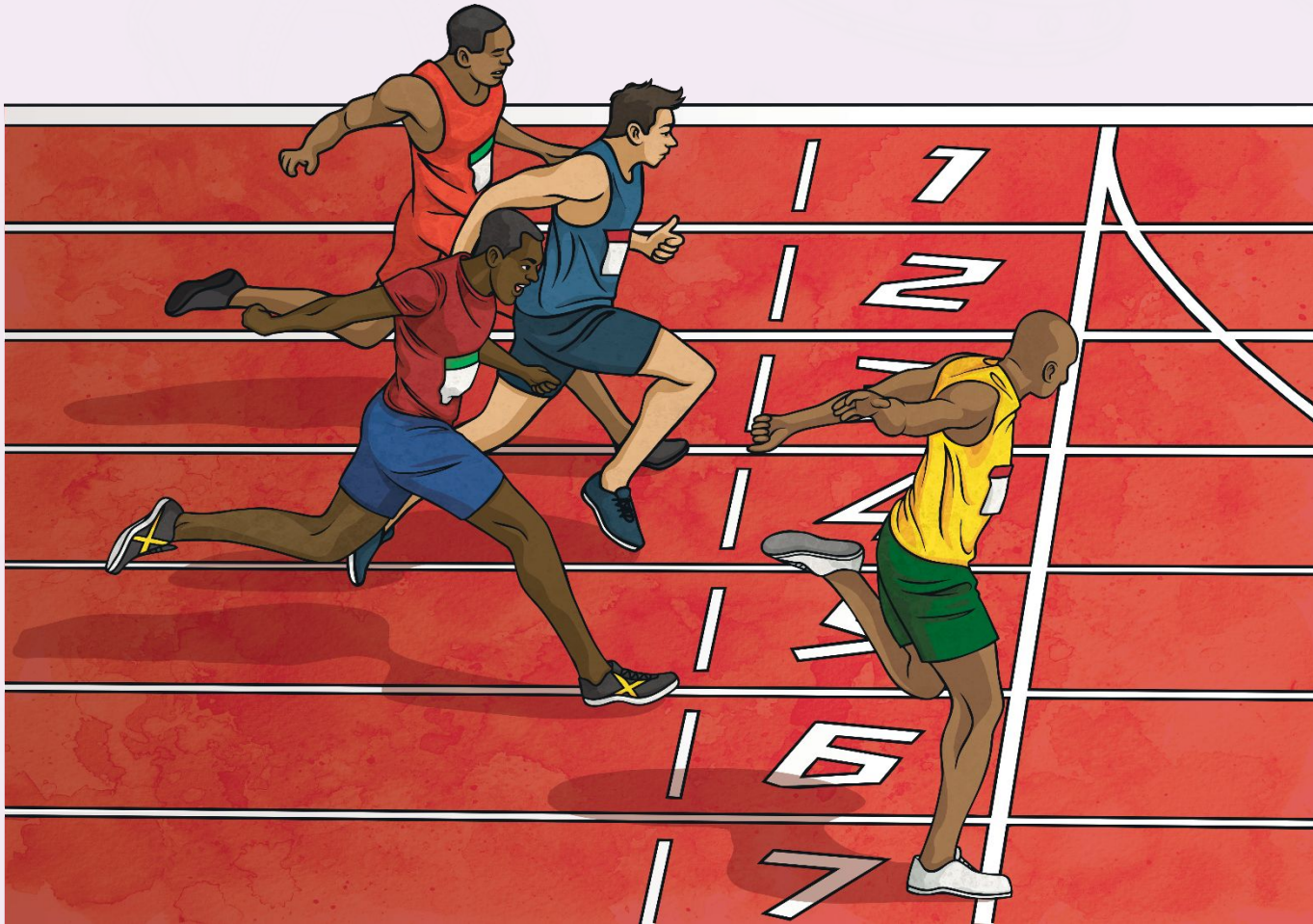
The Commonwealth is a group of 53 countries, almost all of which were formerly under British rule as part of the British Empire.

After becoming independent, many countries decided that they still wanted to remain within the Commonwealth. The Queen is Head of the Commonwealth and, during her reign, has made more than 200 trips abroad to visit Commonwealth countries.

The Commonwealth Games is an international, multi-sport event which involves athletes from Commonwealth Countries. The Queen often attends the games to open or close them.



# Commonwealth Games



# The Queen's Homes

Her Majesty's official residence in London is Buckingham Palace but she also spends lots of time at Windsor Castle.



The Royal Family chose the name 'Windsor' as their surname after Windsor Castle.

The Queen loves Scotland, and spends her summers at Balmoral Castle (below, left). Her official residence in Scotland is The Palace of Holyrood House in Edinburgh.



The Queen also enjoys spending time at Sandringham House (above, right) in Norfolk, which she inherited from her father.

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# The Diamond Jubilee

In 2012, the Queen celebrated her Diamond Jubilee.

She had been Queen for 60 years! There were celebrations and parties across the country, all focused around a central weekend of events.

The Diamond Jubilee Pageant took place on the Thames and included 1,000 boats assembled from across the UK, the Commonwealth and around the world. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh travelled in the Royal Barge which formed the centrepiece of the flotilla.

A huge concert performed outside Buckingham Palace and a service at St Paul's Cathedral rounded off the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.



# Diamond Jubilee River Pageant



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# A Long-Serving Monarch

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has served for 67 years. On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015, she became the longest-reigning British monarch, surpassing her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria, who reigned for 63 years and seven months.

In the words of the National Anthem, the Queen certainly is “long to reign over us”.





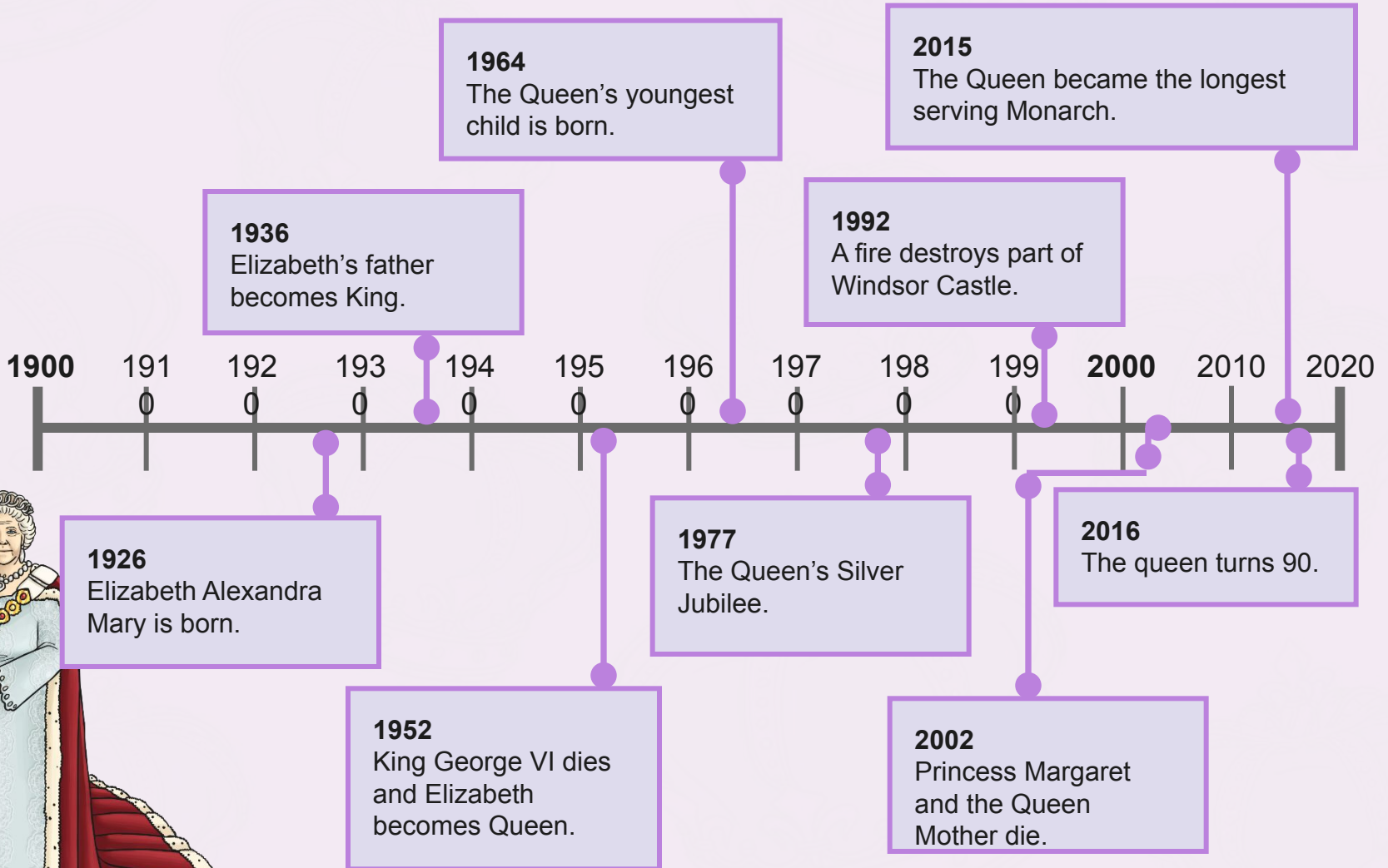
# The National Anthem

'God Save the King' was a patriotic song first performed in London in 1745. Today, it is known as 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.

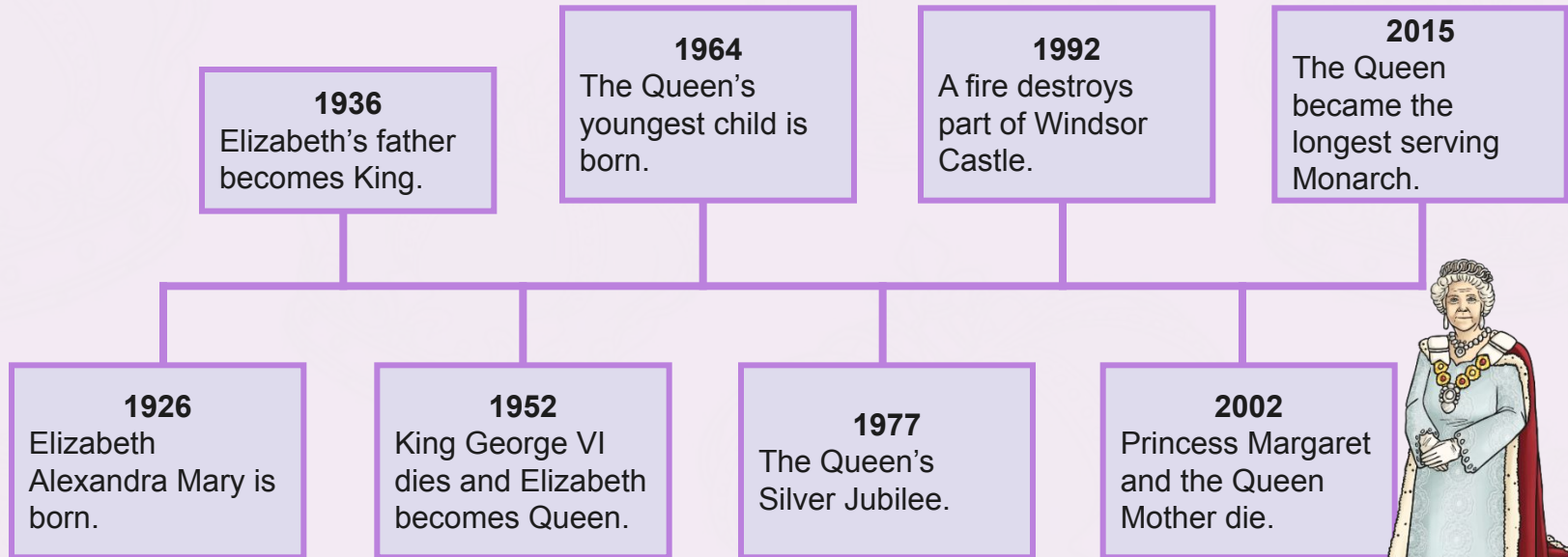


# Events in the Life of HM the Queen



Where on this timeline would you put the following events?

- 1997 Princess Diana is killed in a road accident.
- 1982 Prince Andrew came back safely from the Falklands War.
- 1973 The Queen opens the spectacular Sydney Opera House.
- 1953 Elizabeth is crowned Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey.
- 2012 The Queen celebrates her Diamond Jubilee.



# Fun Facts About the Queen

I have nine thrones; six at Buckingham Palace!

In 1954, I became the first serving monarch to circumnavigate the globe on a six month round-the-world tour with my husband.

For my 6<sup>th</sup> birthday, I was given a miniature Welsh cottage.

I have 'sat' for my portrait to be painted over 130 times!

I send cards to congratulate people who reach the age of 100.

I am 5'4" (160cm) tall.

I was the first, and so far the only, female member of the Royal Family to serve in the armed forces.

Corgis are my favourite dogs. I have owned more than 30 corgis during my reign. I also like Dorgis; a cross between a Corgi and a Dachshund.

