

## History - Three Queens (Queen Elizabeth 1st, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth 2nd)

### What should I already know?

- To know our current Queen is Queen Elizabeth II
- A timeline of history
- The time period of Rural Britain 1800—1900 (during Queen Victoria's reign)



### Key Questions: Who is the fairest of them all? Who made the biggest difference?

#### When did these three queens reign?

Queen Elizabeth I (1533 – 1603) ruled for **44 years and 127 days**.

Queen Victoria is Britain's 2nd longest-reigning **monarch**, ruling from **June 20, 1837—January 22, 1901 (63 years, 217 days)**.

Elizabeth II, is the longest-reigning British monarch ever. She became queen on **February 6, 1952**.

#### What impact did these queens have?

Elizabeth I's forces defeated the Spanish Armada and saved England from invasion. She reinstated **Protestantism** and helped to create a strong and independent nation.

Victoria was a truly global queen who used her influence to help the **British Empire** to grow. At one point, she reigned over 1/5 of the world's surface area and ¼ of its people. During her reign, Britain experienced immense **social** change, as well as revolutionary changes in its **politics** and **industry**. She also attempted to improve the conditions of the poor.

Queen Elizabeth II is a hugely popular and well-respected figure around the world. She is known for her **dignity**, her devotion to her **duties**, her interest in **politics**, and for modernising the monarchy.

#### Who made the biggest difference?

This is open to **debate**, and very much depends on how you **interpret** the question. Many consider the **Elizabethan era** to be a golden age of British history – the time of Shakespeare, the **enrichment** of the nation through **discovery** of new lands and the work of "**privateers**". Certainly, in a time before full **democracy** in Britain, she had the most power and influence of the three queens to actually **rule** the country (although she had many advisers). The **Victorian era** saw immense change to the country – the expansion of the **British Empire**, great engineering projects like railways and bridges, and **technological advancements**.

During Elizabeth II's reign, she has been the **figurehead** of the country from the gloomy post-war years, and into the digital age. In the era of television and the internet, she is a truly global figure, and is known and respected throughout the world.

## Vocabulary

**Armada** – a fleet of 130 Spanish ships sent to bring troops to attack Britain in 1588.

**British Empire** – for many years, Britain ruled other countries. This *empire* was the biggest in the history of the world (around ¼ of the people in the world were ruled by Britain at one stage).

**Debate** – an argument or comparison of different points of view. There may not be a definite answer!

**Democracy** – a system by which people in a country choose their leaders with elections.

**Devotion** – love, loyalty or enthusiasm for another person or for an activity.

**Dignity** – to be deserving of honour or respect.

**Duties** – jobs a person must carry out.

**Enrichment** – to gain wealth.

**Figurehead** – a charismatic and well-known leader.

**Interpret** – to see things in a particular way.

**Monarch** – the ruling queen or king.

**Monarchy** – a system by which a country is **ruled** by a monarch. In the UK we have a **constitutional monarchy**. This means we have a **democracy**, but that the **monarch** has to invite the leader who wins an election to form a **government**.

**Protestantism** – a branch of Christianity which is separate from the Roman Catholic Church.

**Privateer** – a pirate paid by the monarch to steal valuable items at sea.

**Politics** – anything concerned with running a country.

**Reign** – the period of time a **monarch** serves for.

**Social** – relating to how people live.

**Technological advancements** – new inventions.

### Timeline (not to scale)

1533—after the death of her father, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I becomes queen.

1603—Elizabeth dies, ending a "golden age" in British history. She has no children and is succeeded by James I.

1837—Victoria becomes queen after the death of her uncle, William IV.

1901—Queen Victoria dies following a long and glorious reign. The new king is her son, Edward VII.

1952—Elizabeth II becomes queen. Her coronation in 1953 is the first to be televised.

2015 (9th September), Elizabeth II's reign becomes the longest in UK history.

## Geography— The Commonwealth

### What should I already know?

- The 7 Continents
- Some countries within each continent, particularly in Africa, Europe and South America
- How countries have helped each other in the past, particularly during WW2



### Key Question: What is the impact and relevance of the Commonwealth today?

#### Key learning

##### What is the Commonwealth?

Also known as the Commonwealth of Nations, the Commonwealth is a voluntary group of, currently, 53 countries that support each other and work together in the common interests of their citizens for development, democracy and peace. The Queen is the head of the Commonwealth, which contains over 30% of the world's population!

##### How was the Commonwealth created?

The British Empire ruled about one quarter of the Earth's population, and these populations were reluctantly under direct rule of the British. In 1931, when the British Empire had begun to break-up, countries were able to join the Commonwealth instead.

##### What does the Commonwealth do?

All members subscribe to the Commonwealth's values and principles outlined in the Commonwealth Charter, including Democracy, Human rights, Freedom of expression and Gender equality. Every two years, the leaders of each country meet to discuss issues. The commonwealth nations also compete in The Commonwealth Games every 4 years..

## Vocabulary

<b>Parliament</b>	A group of people who make the laws for a country
<b>Citizens</b>	A person who lives in a particular place
<b>Democracy</b>	The people have a say in how to government is run
<b>Weal</b>	The state of good fortune
<b>Free Association</b>	The forming of a group without any external restriction
<b>British Empire</b>	A group of countries ruled by the United Kingdom
<b>Population</b>	Inhabitants of a particular place
<b>Charter</b>	An official document setting out the rights and duties of a group.
<b>Voluntary</b>	Working, done or maintained without payment