

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). Queen Elizabeth II, was the longest-reigning British monarch ever. She ruled from February 6th 1952—September 8th 2022.

What impact did these Queens have?

Queen 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.

Queen Victoria was also known as the Empress of India and she 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 was a hugely popular and well-respected figure around the world. She was 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 was 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 was 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—around 1/4 of the people in the world were ruled by Britain at one stage
Debate	An argument or comparison of different points of view
Democracy	People vote in their leaders with elections
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 is country is ruled by a Monarch
Privateer	A pirate paid by the Monarch to steal valuable items at sea
Protestantism	A branch of Christianity which is separate from the Roman Catholic Church
Politics	Anything concerned with running a country
Reign	The period of time a monarch serves for
Social	Relating to how people live

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.
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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 King 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 2 years.

Vocabulary

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