



**What was  
Queen Elizabeth II's  
role in our society?  
Lesson**

**The UK's monarchy - a citizenship perspective**

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<p><b>Overview</b></p>	<p>The lesson sets out to outline the role of the Head of State, the importance of the Head of State, and how the role changed overtime. It has been made to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II's life and explore the role she played in our society.</p> <p>There are plenty of opportunities to extend this lesson across two lessons and even into a research task/homework. As a teacher, you can use your professional experience to adapt the lesson to your needs.</p>
<p><b>Curriculum Links</b></p>	<p><b>KS3:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the development of the political system of democratic government in the United Kingdom, including the roles of citizens, Parliament and the monarch</li> <li>● the roles played by public institutions and voluntary groups in society, and the ways in which citizens work together to improve their communities, including opportunities to participate in school-based activities</li> </ul> <p><b>KS4:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● parliamentary democracy and the key elements of the constitution of the United Kingdom, including the power of government, the role of citizens and Parliament in holding those in power to account, and the different roles of the executive, legislature and judiciary and a free press</li> <li>● local, regional and international governance and the United Kingdom's relations with the rest of Europe, the Commonwealth, the United Nations and the wider world</li> </ul> <p><b>GCSE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AQA - Politics and Participation</li> <li>● OCR - Democracy and Government</li> <li>● Edexcel - Democracy at work in the UK</li> </ul>

<p><b>Citizenship Skills and Concepts</b></p>	<p>Students will develop skills of enquiry and discussion. They will consider democracy and understand the role of the monarchy in our constitutional democracy.</p>
<p><b>Essential Teaching Guidance</b></p>	<p>Depending on issues selected or discussed by students/teachers, there could be some differing views on the monarchy, its establishment and associated activities. The Deliberative Classroom is a project to support teachers to lead knowledge based discussions and debates with students on topical issues relating to fundamental British values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs), citizenship and equality. You can access support here:</p> <p><a href="#">The Deliberative Classroom: Topical Debating Resources and Teacher Guidance   Association for Citizenship Teaching</a></p> <p>Students may be keen to discuss issues moving on from this, and by discussing our constitution and issues around the way the UK is governed, it will allow teachers to ensure impartiality over time.</p>
<p><b>Learning Questions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the Head of State’s role?</li> <li>• Why is a Head of State important?</li> <li>• How has the role changed over time and why?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Resources</b></p>	<p>PowerPoint Roles of Head of State card sort Roles of Head of State print-out</p>
<p><b>Assessment Opportunities</b></p>	<p>Mind map Card sort Discussion Written task</p>
<p><b>Do now / Starter /Entry Task</b></p> <p><i>(10 minutes)</i></p>	<p><b>Look at the quote from the Queen’s 21st Birthday speech. Discuss:</b> What did The Queen mean by service? What did The Queen mean by ‘Imperial family’?</p> <p><b>Mind map:</b> Students create a mind map of Queen Elizabeth II’s roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Students feedback their examples as a whole class.</p>

<p><b>Task 1</b> <i>(15 minutes)</i></p>	<p><b>What is the Head of State’s role?</b></p> <p>Slides 6-14 explore the various roles of the Head of State. The <b>video</b> ‘How Parliament Works’ can be shown to give students a quick overview of the role the Head of State has in the Parliamentary process.</p> <p><b>Card sort:</b> The worksheet ‘The roles of the Head of State card sort’ can be used to allow students to categorise the roles of the Head of State into; legislative, political and worldwide.</p> <p>The <b>worksheet</b> ‘The roles of the Head of State’ is designed to accompany slide 11; students can underline key information and points, and make their own notes. Modelling this to students will particularly support those with EAL and/or SEND.</p> <p>Students return to their <b>mind maps</b> and add new information in a different colour pen to demonstrate AfL.</p> <p>If time allows, students can complete the <b>written task</b> ‘What is the most important role of the Head of State? Explain your answer.’</p>
<p><b>Task 2</b> <i>(10 minutes)</i></p>	<p><b>Why is the Head of State important?</b></p> <p>Slides 16-19 consolidate the roles of the Head of State, and highlight the importance of the role both here in the UK and abroad.</p> <p>Slide 18 shows a map of all the countries the Queen visited during her reign. This is a good opportunity to discuss why the Head of State travels to different countries and the role they have in the wider world.</p> <p>Students <b>discuss</b> the importance of the Commonwealth, and the importance of the way the Head of State communicates evolves.</p>
<p><b>Task 3</b> <i>(10 minutes)</i></p>	<p><b>How has the Head of State’s role changed over time and why?</b></p> <p>Students explore the end of the Empire, the Commonwealth, the media and communication (slides 21-25) and how these factors have changed the Head of State’s role over time.</p> <p>Students <b>discuss</b> why the Commonwealth is still relevant today, and why it is important the way the Head of State communicates evolves.</p>

<p><b>Task 4</b> (5 minutes)</p>	<p><b>Knowledge check</b></p> <p>Students complete the <b>knowledge check</b> on slide 28. This can be done by students copying the statements, having them printed and writing ‘true’ or ‘false,’ writing on mini-whiteboards or writing 1-5, with a T or F next to each statement.</p> <p>Students <b>tick and fix</b> their answers, re-teach any common misconceptions.</p>
<p><b>Plenary / Reflection</b> (10 minutes)</p>	<p>Students <b>discuss</b></p> <p>The Queen’s work that directly affected communities via her connections with charities. Show the quote regarding small acts and ask students to discuss what this could mean. Draw out <i>that for things to be different everybody needs to act together</i>. Make the point that even Queen Elizabeth, who in theory has power and influence, was acknowledging that for change to happen it is important that communities and groups work together. Draw out with students the link here with active citizenship and how we can all follow the advice of our late Queen to complete “small acts of goodness.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What was Queen Elizabeth II’s role in society?</li> <li>2. What will you remember about her reign?</li> </ol> <p>Read out the quotes of condolence on slides 35 and 36. End with the quote from King Charles III.</p> <p>If time allows, a message of condolence can be left for HM Queen Elizabeth II: <a href="https://www.royal.uk/send-message-condolence">https://www.royal.uk/send-message-condolence</a></p>
<p><b>Takeaway Task</b></p>	<p>Research any links your town or an organisation you belong to had with Queen Elizabeth II. Speak to family and friends to see if they have any memories of The Queen.</p>
<p><b>Additional Teacher Links &amp; Resources</b></p>	<p>Find links and additional information to support your own knowledge in the slide set.</p>
<p><b>Glossary</b></p>	<p><b>Imperial</b> - The term <i>imperial family</i> describes a family of an empire.</p> <p><b>Constitutional Monarchy</b> - Political power is shared between the monarch and a constitutionally organised government, such as a parliament.</p>

**Head of State** - A head of state is the leader of a country, for example a president, king, or queen.

**Privy Council** - A body of advisers to the monarch. It is an important link between the executive powers of ministers and the constitutional authority of the sovereign, largely comprising senior current and former ministers and members of the judiciary. It advises the monarch on the use of prerogative and statutory powers.

**Partitioned** - Divided (divide) into parts.

**Commonwealth** - An international association between the UK and the countries which were previously part of the British Empire.

**Regency Acts** - Shared role between the monarch and their heir apparent in performing the role of the UK constitutional monarchy.



# The roles of the Head of State

<b>Legislative</b>	Notes
<p>Royal Assent is required by the Monarch at the end of the law making process for Statute law, converting ‘Bills’ in to ‘Acts of Parliament’.</p> <p>Legally the Monarch can decline to give Royal Assent, but has not withheld it since 1708.</p> <p>The Monarch informs the legislature of the Government’s plans in their speech at the State Opening of Parliament.</p>	
<b>Political</b>	
<p>The UK is a democracy and run by the UK elected Government but there is still a ‘constitutional Monarchy’.</p> <p>The Head of State must remain strictly neutral with respect to political matters, (the Monarch does not vote or stand for election).</p> <p>Ceremonial and formal roles in relation to the government of the UK include the opening of Parliament.</p> <p>The PM keeps the Monarch informed of political matters on a weekly basis and they can offer council in return. These are called ‘Audiences’.</p> <p>The Monarch holds important meetings called the Privy Council.</p>	
<b>International</b>	
<p>Head of State to 14 other countries known as the realms and territories.</p> <p>Head of the Commonwealth (a voluntary association of 54 states, mainly former British colonies and dependencies.)</p> <p>The Head of State is the UK’s envoy (representative) when they visit other countries. The Queen represented the UK on 110 foreign visits, across six continents.</p> <p>The Queen was the Royal Patron/ President to over 600 charities, professional bodies and public service organisations.</p>	

## The roles of the Head of State card sort

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<p>Ceremonial and formal roles in relation to the government of the UK include the opening of Parliament.</p>	<p>The Monarch is the Head of State to 14 other countries known as the realms.</p>	<p>The Head of State must remain strictly neutral with respect to political matters, (the Monarch does not vote or stand for election).</p>	<p>The Queen was the Royal Patron/ President to over 600 charities, professional bodies and public service organisations.</p>
<p>The Monarch informs the legislature of the Government’s plans in their speech at the State Opening of Parliament.</p>	<p>The Monarch is Head of the Commonwealth (a voluntary association of 56 states, mainly former British colonies and dependencies.)</p>	<p>The PM keeps the Monarch informed of political matters on a weekly basis and they can offer council in return. These are called ‘Audiences’.</p>	<p>Royal Assent is required by the Monarch at the end of the law making process for Statute law, converting ‘Bills’ in to ‘Acts of Parliament’.</p>

