



# Kings and Queens




AD 871-899	1066-1086	1509-1547	1558-1603	1837-1901	1952-2022
Alfred the Great	William the Conqueror	Henry VIII	Elizabeth I	Queen Victoria	Elizabeth II

Alfred the Great was a wise and brave king. He converted his Viking enemy to Christianity and they became friends. He united the English kingdoms. He valued education and created schools to teach his people.



William the Conqueror invaded England and defeated Harold II at the Battle of Hastings. He had absolute power. He created the feudal system and built many castles to protect his kingdom.



Henry VIII was famous for marrying six times and creating the Church of England. He was also power hungry so he closed the monasteries, strengthened the Royal Navy and made laws without parliament.



Elizabeth I was intelligent, brave and loved by her people. She spoke many languages and sponsored playwrights like William Shakespeare. She never married and proved that a woman could rule a kingdom alone. She supported explorers and defeated the Spanish Armada.



Queen Victoria reigned for 63 years. She supported charities, new technologies and inventions and increased the size and power of the British Empire. She was married to Prince Albert and had nine children.



Elizabeth II was the longest service female monarch. She died in 2022 and her son Charles became King. He performs many royal duties, such as opening parliament and giving awards. He leads the country's celebrations, supports charities and hosts state banquets.




Key Vocabulary	
<b>AD - anno Domini</b>	The years after Jesus Christ was born.
<b>monarch</b>	A king or queen who rules a kingdom
<b>reign</b>	The period of time that a king or queen rules over a country.
<b>sovereign</b>	A king or queen
<b>feudal system</b>	A hierarchy where people are put into different groups based on their class and roles

Royal residences include palaces, castles and stately homes. Some of them are used for official royal business and some are used as holiday or private homes.



Osborne House is on the Isle of Wight, England. This was Queen Victoria's favourite holiday home.



Buckingham Palace is in London, England. It was Queen Elizabeth's main residence.