

Queen Victoria

Until 2015, Queen Victoria was the longest-serving British monarch (king or queen) with over 63 years as The Queen. She is the great-great-grandma of Queen Elizabeth II (our queen), who is now the longest-serving British monarch. All the time that Victoria was queen is known as The Victorian Age.

Early Life

Victoria was born on 24th May 1819 and lived at Kensington Palace in London with her parents Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld and Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn. Her father was the fourth son of George III so this made Victoria fifth in line to the throne. In her early years, she had little freedom and she had very strict rules to live by including sleeping in the same room as her mother. This was to keep tight control over her. This made Victoria very stubborn. She also started writing a diary at this time, which she carried on for most of her life.

Victoria was still young when she became Queen at just 18 years old. The first thing she did when she became Queen was have one hour to herself – something she had never had before! Her coronation (when she was crowned) was the next year on 28th June 1838 at Westminster Abbey.



Did you know?

- She was only 4 feet 11 inches tall (about 150cm).
- Queen Elizabeth II is her great-great-granddaughter.
- She was christened 'Alexandrina Victoria' and was known as 'Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria of Kent'.
- Victoria survived seven assassination attempts (people trying to kill her) during her time as Queen.

Victoria and Albert

Victoria is famous for having a long and happy marriage to her husband (consort), Albert. They met when Victoria was just 16 years old and he was actually her cousin. Due to the fact that she was Queen, he was not allowed to propose to her, so she had to propose to him and did so on October 15th 1839. They were married the following year on 10th February 1840 and later she wrote in her diary: 'Without him everything loses its interest'. Together they had nine children and lived in Buckingham Palace. They also

Photo courtesy of (BiblioArchives/LibraryArchives@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

spent happy times at Balmoral in Scotland where Albert had built a castle. They were happily married until Albert's death in 1861 after which she wore black for the rest of her life.

End of an Era

Victoria died at the age of 81 on 22nd of January 1901 at her Osborne House Estate on the Isle of Wight. This meant her son, Albert Edward, became the new King. She had been a loyal queen to her country and during her time, witnessed many important changes in industry, travel and technology. During Victorian times, Britain became the most powerful country in the world. The British Empire was the biggest in the world and ruled over one quarter of the world's population. Even though she has now been overtaken by Elizabeth II for the longest reign, she was still a really important queen!

Photo courtesy of (BiblioArchives/LibraryArchives@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Questions About Queen Victoria

1. Who is Queen Victoria's great-great-granddaughter?

2. What was the name of her husband?

3. Where was she crowned?

4. What was different about her clothes after Albert died?

5. What is a 'monarch'?

6. Where was her Balmoral home?

7. What was the name of her house on the Isle of Wight?

8. In the **Victoria and Albert** section, what does the word 'propose' mean?

9. Why couldn't Albert propose to Victoria?

10. Do you agree that she was 'a really important queen'? Explain your opinion.

Questions About Queen Victoria

Answers

1. Who is Queen Victoria's great-great-granddaughter?

Queen Elizabeth II (Our Queen)

2. What was the name of her husband?

Albert

3. Where was she crowned?

Westminster Abbey

4. What was different about her clothes after Albert died?

She wore only black to show she was in mourning for him.

5. What is a 'monarch'?

A king or queen

6. Where was her Balmoral home?

Scotland (It is still there and Queen Elizabeth II also uses it now).

7. What was the name of her house on the Isle of Wight?

Osborne House

8. In the **Victoria and Albert** section, what does the word 'propose' mean?

Ask someone to marry you.

9. Why couldn't Albert propose to Victoria?

Because she was a Queen and he wasn't allowed.

10. Do you agree that she was 'a really important queen'? Explain your opinion.

Open discussion: There is no evidence in the final paragraph that she was.