

TEST READING

The Royal Family

At present the British royal family is headed by Queen Elizabeth. When the Queen was born on the 21st of April 1926, her grandfather, King George V, was on the throne and her uncle was his heir. The death of her grandfather and the abdication of her uncle brought her father to the throne as King George VI.

As a child she studied constitutional history and law as well as art and music. In addition she learned to ride and acquired her enthusiasm for horses. As she grew older she began to take part in public life, making her first broadcast at the age of 14.

The marriage of the young Princess Elizabeth to Philip, Duke of Edinburgh took place in November 1947. She came to the throne after her father's death in 1952 and was crowned in Westminster Abbey in June 1953.

Among Queen Elizabeth's many duties are the regular visits she makes to foreign countries, and especially those of the Commonwealth, whose interests and welfare are very important to her. The Queen has allowed the BBC to make a documentary film about the every day of the royal family. She also started the tradition of the "walkabout", an informal feature of an otherwise formal royal visit, when she walks among the public crowds and stops to talk to some people.

The annual Christmas broadcast made by the Queen on radio and television has become a traditional and popular feature of the season, and there were widespread celebrations and special programmes of events in 1977 to mark her Silver Jubilee.

The Queen's husband, Duke of Edinburgh, was born in 1926 and served in the Royal Navy. He takes a great deal of interest in industry, in the achievements of young people (he founded Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in 1956) and in saving rare wild animals from extinction.

The Queen's heir is Charles, Prince of Wales, who was born in 1948, married Lady Diana Spencer and has two children, Prince William and Prince Harry. The Prince of Wales is well-known as a keen promoter of British interests.

In recent years he has become outspoken on such controversial topics as modern architecture, violence in films and on television, and the standard of English teaching in schools. His wife Diana, Princess of Wales (often called in mass media Princess Di), won the affection of many people by her modesty, shyness and beauty. Unfortunately, she died in a car accident in August, 1997.

The Queen's other children are Princess Anne (born in 1950), Prince Andrew (born in 1960) and Prince Edward (born in 1964). Anne, Princess Royal, has acquired a reputation for being arrogant, but in recent years has become quite popular with the general public.

The Queen is widely known for her interest in horses and horse-racing. She is now president of the Save the Children Fund, Chancellor of the University of London and carries out many public engagements.

Prince Andrew, Duke of York, served as a helicopter pilot in the Royal Navy. In 1986 he married Miss Sarah Ferguson (Fergie, for short) and has two daughters.

Prince Edward is keen on the theatre. This interest began while he was at university. He quit the Royal Marines, and is now pursuing a career with a theatrical company.

The Queen Mother, the widow of the late King George VI, celebrated her one hundred birthday in 2000 and died in 2002. The Queen's only sister, Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, is well-known for her charity work.

I. Translate into Ukrainian

abdication - _____

annual - _____

controversial - _____

duke - _____

enthusiasm - _____

for short - _____

feature - _____

heir - _____

keen promoter - _____

monarchy - _____

outspoken - _____

the Royal Navy - _____

to crown - _____

to signify - _____

II. Translate into English:

Бути на троні - _____

Смерть дідуся - _____

Вивчати історію і право - _____

Брати участь у громадському житті - _____

Багато обов'язків - _____

Створити документальний фільм - _____

Щоденне життя королівської родини - _____

Досягнення молодих людей - _____

Поширені святкування - _____

Насильство у фільмах - _____

III. Answer the questions:

1. When was the Queen Elizabeth crowned?

2. By whom is the British royal family headed at present?

3. What tradition did she start?

4. What did the Queen Elizabeth study as a child?

5. What does he take a great interest in?

6. When was the Queen's husband born?

7. What are the names of the Queen's other children?

8. Who did Prince Charles marry?

IV. Say if the statements are *TRUE* or *FALSE*

1. King George V, Elizabeth father, was on the throne in 1926. _____

2. As a child Elizabeth studied music, art, law and history. _____

3. She wasn't fond of horse riding. _____

4. Philip married Elizabeth in November 1947. _____

5. Elizabeth was crowned in St Paul's Cathedral in 1953. _____

6. BBC made a documentary film about the royal family. _____

7. The Queen's husband was a sailor. _____

8. The Queen has got four children. _____

9. Elizabeth is interested in cooking. _____