

Mintlings
by THE ROYAL MINT

The Coronation of
His Majesty King Charles III

Activity
Pack



What is a coronation?

A coronation is the religious ceremony in which a new monarch, a reigning king or queen, is crowned. During a coronation ceremony, a crown is placed upon the monarch's head, symbolising their commitment to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953



A commemorative postage stamp from the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation. The photograph was taken by Cecil Beaton in Westminster Abbey.

Where will the coronation of King Charles III take place?

Although His Majesty King Charles III officially became king when his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, passed away on 8 September 2022, the new king's coronation will take place at Westminster Abbey in London on 6 May 2023. Coronations have taken place at Westminster Abbey since 1066 and His Majesty The King will be the 40th reigning monarch to be crowned at the Abbey. The last coronation to take place in the UK was the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953.



The new king's coronation will take place in Westminster Abbey.





Which crown is used for the coronation?

The St Edward's Crown with the Crown Jewels



The St Edward's Crown is traditionally used for coronations. It was made in 1661 for Charles II after the original St Edward's Crown (and all the original Crown Jewels except for a spoon) was melted down by Oliver Cromwell. Usually kept heavily protected at the Tower of London, St Edward's Crown features more than 400 precious and semi-precious stones and weighs 2.23kg.



Kept in the Tower of London



What happens during the coronation ceremony?

During the coronation ceremony, King Charles III will be crowned alongside his wife, Her Majesty The Queen Consort. Anointed with a special holy oil, The King will make a promise to his people and to God to serve as the monarch and Head of the Church of England. After The King is presented with the Sovereign's Orb, Coronation Ring and the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross, the Archbishop of Canterbury will place the St Edward's Crown on His Majesty's head. Following the ceremony, The King and Queen Consort will travel through the streets of London back to Buckingham Palace as part of a grand procession.



A King's Guard on The Mall in London



How will people celebrate the coronation?



The British people are being given an extra bank holiday to celebrate the coronation. During that weekend, some people will choose to celebrate by holding street parties with their neighbours. People are also encouraged to volunteer their time and help others. Many people will also choose to watch the coronation ceremony on the television or travel to London to line the streets and watch the royal procession for themselves. On Sunday, 7 May 2023, the day after the coronation ceremony, a spectacular Coronation Concert and laser light show will take place at Windsor Castle.



A coronation party in 1953



The Mall

How will The Royal Mint be celebrating the coronation?

We are commemorating the coronation of King Charles III by releasing a special collection of UK coins. Each of these new coins will be the first to feature the official crowned coinage portrait of The King on the obverse (that's the 'heads' side of the coin), which His Majesty has personally approved.



50p coin



£5 coin



10p coin


The Royal Mint's special crowned portrait of The King





Why do people buy coins to celebrate events like a coronation?

As the original maker of British coins, we have been striking coins on behalf of the British monarchy for more than 1,100 years. Over the years, we have struck a variety of coins celebrating special occasions such as coronations, jubilees, significant birthdays and important anniversaries of members of the Royal Family. For Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953, we released a special commemorative five-shilling coin – the equivalent to 25p in today's money – that showed the monarch riding her favourite horse, Winston. People enjoy collecting coins like this because they celebrate a moment in history and capture the excitement of a national event. Many coin collectors will collect certain denominations (that means the value of the coin) such as 50p coins or The Sovereign. Coins act as keepsakes of special occasions and can be enjoyed for many years to come.



A five-shilling coin to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's coronation



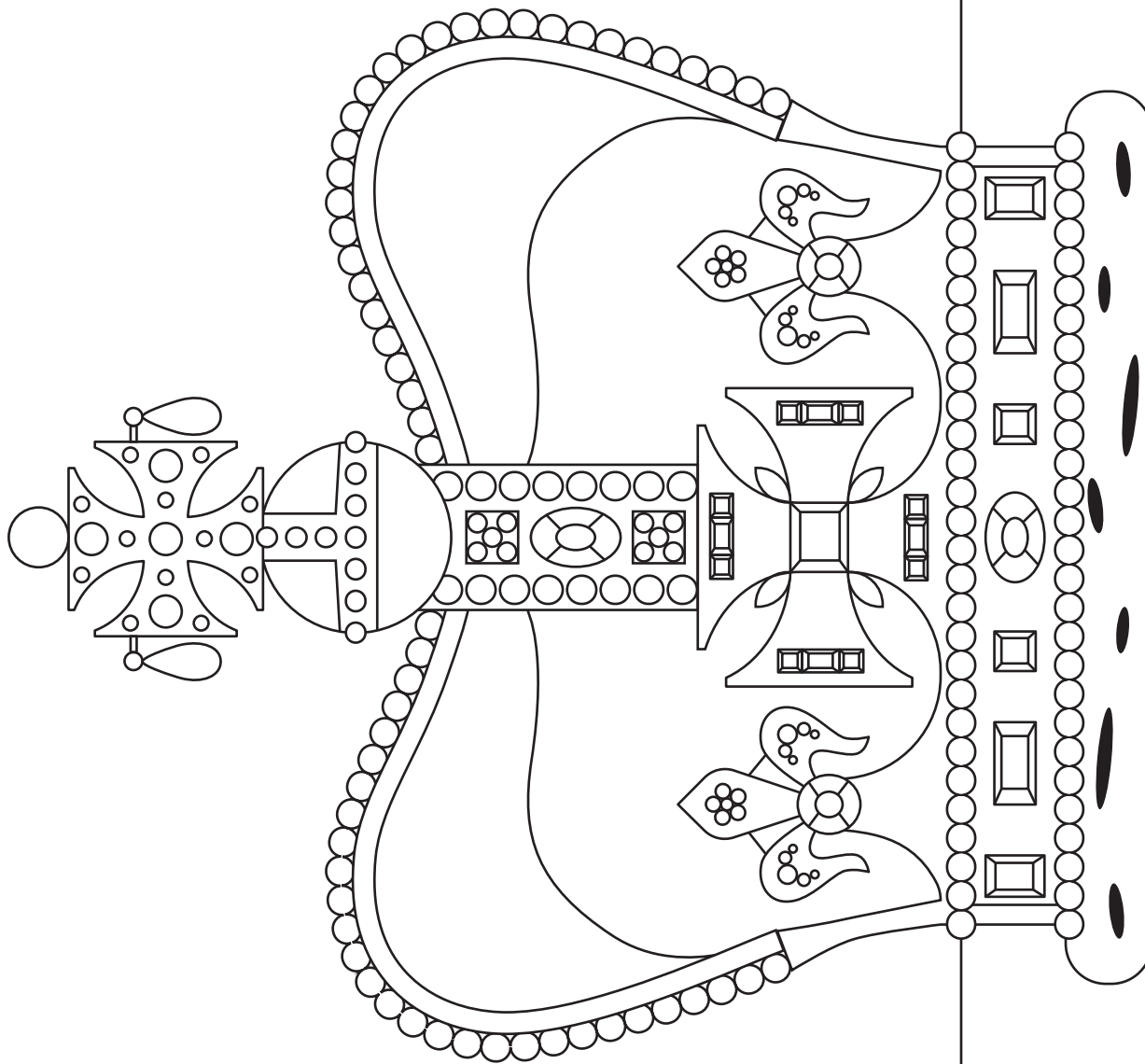
A silver £5 coin to celebrate the 40th birthday of The Prince of Wales



The coin design for a £5 coin celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee

Be a King or Queen for the Day

Print out, colour in and cut out your own
coronation crown.



Glue Tab

Glue Tab

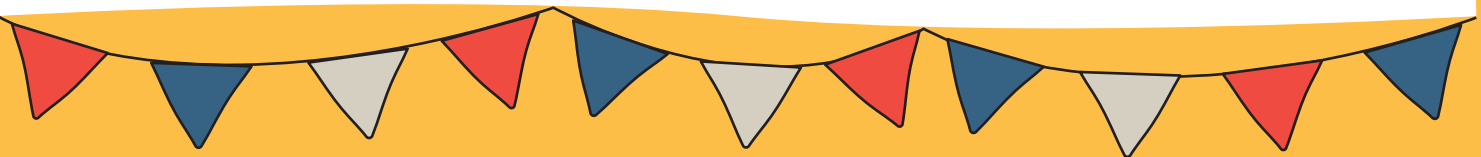


Coronation Word Search

Find the hidden words in this coronation-themed word search:



V L B H H S Z K L J G K H C R Y H J
 S T E S X N Y Z S C E P T R E C F E
 N W E U I B O P J Z G S X A K R Q Q
 Q S Z B W I G N J R W C M T X D S U
 I D T S V C Q F T F O M Q H X M D U
 C R O W N O G B C E E B R R Y H P O
 C S U R R I S J P V N B E O O D V R
 K J S K H N K O I A E L I N S S L B
 O M K I N G C N O Z J W E E C D T X
 X H H G Y H Y L R I D P J V J N K X
 S A D B H G X I T G X A N F H H P M
 M E V W Q I T W R M J G W W O T V B



CROWN

COIN

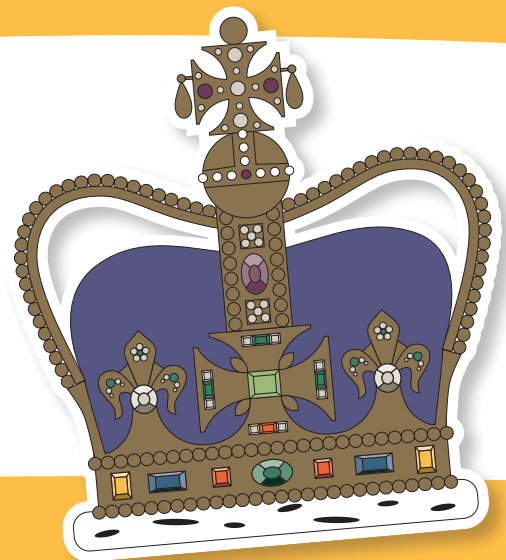
THRONE

KING

ORB

SCEPTRE

ROBE



Coronation Timeline



The House of Windsor

George V (King Charles III's great-grandfather) was king when Britain faced one of its deadliest conflicts, the First World War. The outbreak of the war with Germany stirred up strong feelings amongst the British public, which put the Royal Family in a difficult position due to their German heritage. Showing support towards the British troops, George V changed the surname of the Royal Family from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor in 1917. There have been five monarchs from the House of Windsor, although Edward VIII gave up the throne after less than a year, before he had his coronation.

King Charles III is the first House of Windsor monarch to be crowned in the twenty-first century.

Coronation:
22 June 1911



Coronation:
No Coronation



George V

Reigning from 1910 until 1936, George V was the first monarch of the House of Windsor. His coronation took place at Westminster Abbey on 22 June 1911 and was one of the last events that many of Europe's nobility attended before the outbreak of the First World War in 1914.

Edward VIII

When George V died on 20 January 1936, his eldest son became king. However, Edward VIII did not reign for long enough to have a coronation. Less than year into his reign, in December 1936, Edward VIII decided to abdicate, which means he gave up his position as king. Because of his short reign, The Royal Mint never released coins bearing the king's portrait.



Coronation:
12 May 1937



Coronation:
2 June 1953



Coronation:
6 May 2023



George VI

George VI became king when his older brother, Edward VIII, abdicated. His coronation took place on 12 May 1937. The date had been set for Edward VIII's coronation but, as preparations were already well under way, it was decided that the ceremony should go ahead for George VI instead.

Queen Elizabeth II

The longest-reigning monarch in British history, Queen Elizabeth II reigned for more than 70 years. On 2 June 1953, more than 8,000 guests attended her coronation and, as the first coronation broadcast live on television, millions watched the ceremony across the world.

King Charles III

The coronation of King Charles III is a big, memorable, national celebration. He is the longest-serving heir apparent, which means next in line to the throne, in British history. At 74 years old, he is also the oldest British monarch to be crowned.



Fun Facts

In 1671, Thomas Blood damaged the St Edward's Crown when he tried to steal it from the Tower of London. It is believed that Blood attempted to flatten the crown with a mallet so that it would be easier to hide underneath his cloak as he made his getaway. However, he and his gang were caught before they could escape from the Tower.

Queen Victoria was crowned on 28 June 1838 when she was just 19 years old. Unfortunately, the five-hour coronation ceremony did not go to plan and suffered a series of mishaps. The coronation ring was forced onto the wrong finger, the orchestra had not rehearsed enough, a lord fell down the steps in front of the queen, and a bishop accidentally sent Queen Victoria to St Edward's Chapel too early.

During George VI's coronation on 12 May 1937, the Dean of Westminster put the royal regalia in the wrong order on the high altar and then fell down the steps whilst carrying the St Edward's Crown. Unsure of which way the crown should face, the Archbishop of Canterbury then fumbled when having to place the crown on the new king's head, and a bishop also accidentally stood on the king's robe.

The special anointing oil used during coronation ceremonies was made in a large batch designed to be used for several coronations. However, the container holding the oil was bombed in 1941 during the Second World War, which meant that a new batch had to be made for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation.



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