

Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her *four score years and ten*.



God save our gracious Queen, Long live our noble Queen – but who would have thought she would still be going strong at ninety? Last year, Elizabeth II became the UK's longest reigning monarch. And this year she celebrates her 90th birthday.

Do you know anyone who has celebrated their 90th birthday? Most people have a party with family and maybe a few friends: a sit-down meal and then an early night to recover from an exhausting day. But not Queen Elizabeth II. She is having a whole raft of celebrations over a period of nearly two months – starting on her actual birthday on 21st April and finishing on her official birthday weekend on 12th June.

The celebrations started in Windsor when the Queen lit the principal beacon in a chain of more than 900 beacons that stretched across the country and worldwide. This event, which was similar to the one celebrating her Diamond Jubilee in 2012, was organized by the wonderfully titled Pageantmaster from Pageantmaster House in Great Yarmouth. Later that evening she attended a private family celebration, hosted by her son Prince Charles, at Windsor Castle. This family gathering – husband, children, in-laws and grandchildren enjoying a meal together – may have more in common with our own experience of celebrating a family member's 90th birthday – though we are probably not in our own castle!

The following month from 12th to 15th May there will be an extravaganza: The Queen's 90th Birthday Party will be a celebration of her life, her love of horses and her dedication to the country and Commonwealth. On each of the four evenings, lasting over one and a half hours, 900 horses and over 1,500 participants from all over the world will take part in a pageant in private grounds in Windsor Castle – of course it will be televised so those people unable to buy one of the 25,000 tickets (which sold out in record time), will be able to watch at home in the comfort of their own living rooms.

After this celebration the Queen has almost a month to recover before the next festive weekend – her official birthday weekend on 10th, 11th and 12th June. This begins on the Friday with a service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral in London. On the following day the Trooping of the Colour takes place on Horse Guards Parade (this military parade takes place every year on the Queen's official birthday) and then comes the final festivity: the Patron's

Lunch. The Mall (the wide road that leads to Buckingham Palace) will be transformed into a huge street party for 10,000 guests. The attendees will be members of the 600 or so organizations and charities of which the Queen is patron. And the street parties don't stop on The Mall – throughout Britain, local councils and community groups are encouraged to organize a street party for local residents in order to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday. It certainly looks like it will be quite a celebration!

If you would like to know more about the Queen and her 90th birthday celebrations then click [here](#).

And if you would like to use the Queen's 90th birthday as a topic in your lesson, then we have provided you with activities at A2 and A1 level. You'll find them in the following **Teacher's notes** and on the **Worksheet**.

Teacher's Notes

Which decade? (level A2 upwards, 20+ mins)

- Before the lesson make one copy of **Which decade?** for each student.
- On the board write *Queen Elizabeth II* and *decade*. Ask students in which decade Elizabeth II was born. (1920s) Ask: *How old is she?* (90 on 21.4.2016)
- On the board write *Elizabeth marries Prince Philip* and ask when this happened. (1947)
- Tell students they are going to do an activity which looks at the decades of Elizabeth's life, and the personal and world events which took place during that time.
- Hand out **Which decade?**, one to each student. Tell students they have ten minutes to match the events and the decades. Help with unknown vocabulary: assassination (*Ermordung*), vote (*wählen*), founded (*wurde gegründet*), female (*weibliche*), invention (*Erfindung*), elected (*wurde gewählt*), currency (*Währung*).
- Students check their answers with a partner.
- Check answers together in class.
- Extension: Ask students think of other events which have taken place during the Queen's lifetime. In turn, he or she asks their classmates the questions.

Key:

	Family events	Decade		World events
8	Elizabeth Alexandra Mary is born (21.4.26).	1920s	e	All women in UK over 21 able to vote (2.7.28).
10	Sister Margaret is born (21.8.30).	1930s	c	Start of World War II (1.9.39).
9	First son, Charles, is born (14.11.48).	1940s	b	NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organisation founded (4.4.49).
7	Daughter Anne is born (15.8.50).	1950s	i	European Economic Community founded (25.3.57).
1	Fourth child, Edward, is born (10.3.62).	1960s	j	Assassination of President John F Kennedy (22.11.63).
6	First grandchild, Peter Phillips, is born (15.11.77).	1970s	h	Margaret Thatcher becomes first female UK Prime Minister (4.5.1979).
4	Charles marries Diana (29.7.81).	1980s	a	Invention of World Wide Web (1989).
3	Daughter-in-law Diana dies in car crash (31.8.97).	1990s	f	Nelson Mandela elected President of South Africa (10.5.93).
2	Mother (30.3.2002) and sister Margaret (9.2.2002) die.	2000s	g	The Euro is new currency (1.1.2002).
5	Celebration of 90 th birthday (21.4.2016).	2010s	d	Arab Spring begins in Tunisia (17.12.2010).

Street party (level A1 upwards, 15+ mins + one ninety-minute lesson)

Why not organize a street party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday?

- On the board write *Queen Elizabeth II*. Ask students what they know about her. Elicit *90th birthday*.
- On the board write *street party* ('Straßenfest'). Ask if students have taken part in a street party. Explain that all over the United Kingdom people will be organizing street parties to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday on Sunday 12 June.
- In pairs, tell students they have five minutes to write a list of things you need for a street party. Encourage the use of dictionaries.
Examples: Music; food like sandwiches, crisps and fruit; drinks like fruit juice, beer and wine; tablecloths, tables, plates, glasses. (There may be many more choices!)
- Suggest that you hold a classroom street party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.
- Agree on the date. Agree on which student will bring which food, drinks, plates, glasses, tablecloth, music etc. Someone should make some Union Jack flags to hang on the wall or to decorate the table.
- Make sure you tidy up after the street party!

Worksheet

Which decade?

These are events of Queen Elizabeth II's life.

Match the family events and the world events with the correct decade.

	Family events	Decade		World events
1	Fourth child, Edward, is born.	1920s	a	Invention of World Wide Web.
2	Mother and sister Margaret die.	1930s	b	NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is founded.
3	Daughter-in-law Diana dies in car crash.	1940s	c	Start of World War II.
4	Charles marries Diana.	1950s	d	Arab Spring begins in Tunisia.
5	Celebration of 90 th birthday.	1960s	e	All women in UK over 21 able to vote.
6	First grandchild, Peter Phillips, is born.	1970s	f	Nelson Mandela elected President of South Africa.
7	Daughter Anne is born.	1980s	g	The Euro is new currency.
8	Elizabeth Alexandra Mary is born.	1990s	h	Margaret Thatcher becomes first female UK Prime Minister.
9	First son, Charles, is born.	2000s	i	European Economic Community is founded.
10	Sister Margaret is born.	2010s	j	Assassination of President John F Kennedy.