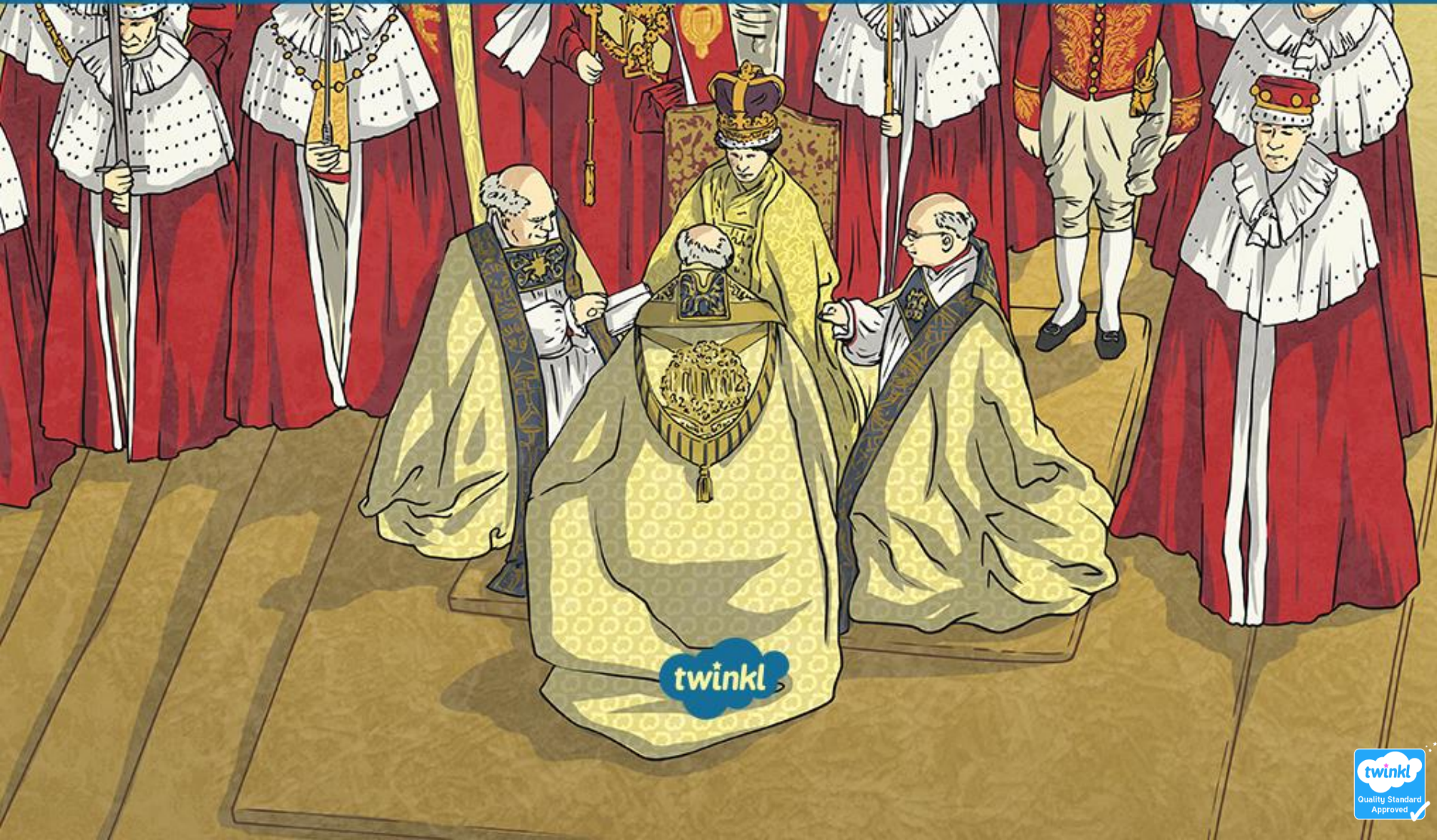
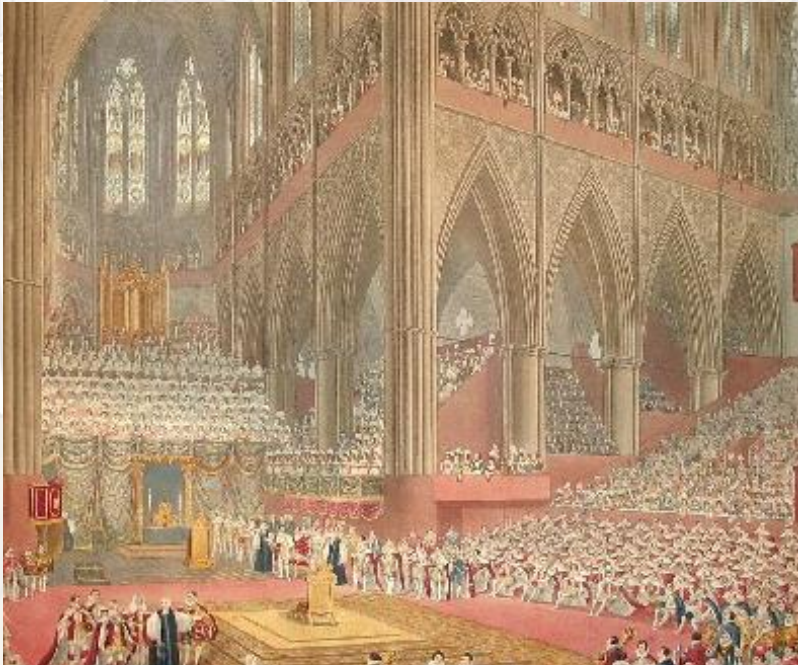


# All About Coronations



# What Is a Coronation?

A coronation is a ceremony where a king or queen is officially given the crown of the country.



It is a ceremony full of pageantry and celebration but it also has a solemn religious side.

It is almost like a marriage ceremony between the monarch and their country.

This is George IV's coronation in 1821

# What Is a Coronation?

A new king or queen becomes the monarch at the very second that the previous monarch dies or abdicates (stands down). This is called ascension.



A coronation is also a massive event that needs an awful lot of planning so there needs to be plenty of time for the organisation.

The 1911 coronation of George V and Queen Mary, which was the first to be photographed.

# Where Does the Coronation Take Place?

For the past 900 years, the coronation of the British monarch has taken place in Westminster Abbey. In 1066, Harold II was the first to be crowned there.



# Who Leads the Coronation?

Since 1066, the ceremony has nearly always been done by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This is the leader of the Church of England and this post is currently held by a man called Justin Welby.



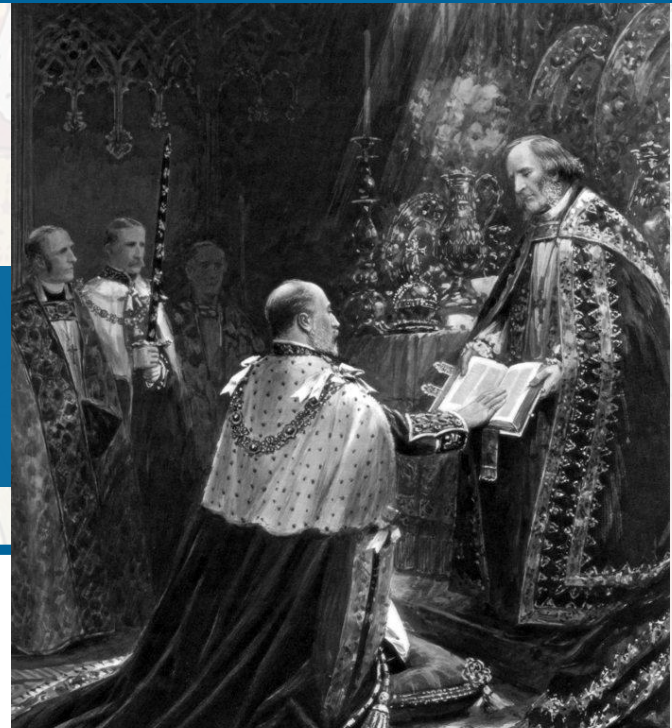
Geoffrey Fisher was the Archbishop who led the coronation ceremony when Queen Elizabeth II was crowned.

# What Happens at the Coronation?

The coronation service for the British monarch has been the same for around 1000 years.

The sovereign (king or queen) makes an important promise called the Coronation Oath.

After the anointing, the sovereign is given the orb and sceptres before having the crown placed on their head. These are known as the Crown Jewels.



This is Edward VII taking the Coronation Oath in 1902.

# The Crown Jewels

The Crown Jewels are kept in the Tower of London and made up of the orb, sceptres and the crown itself.

The orb represents the world and the cross represents God. Traditionally, the monarch has been God's representative on earth.



The monarch has two sceptres – one with a cross to represent their powers as the monarch and the other topped with a dove representing the holy ghost.



The orb represents the world and the cross represents God. Traditionally, the monarch has been God's representative on earth.



# Other Significant Items?

A “coronation spoon” is used to anoint the monarch and has been used at every coronation since 1349. This is one of the only traditional items left from when royal items were destroyed after the defeat of Charles I in 1649.

The Gold State Coach was commissioned in 1760 for the coronation of George III but it took so long to make that it was first used in the coronation of George IV and has been used at every one ever since.

It weighs 4 tonnes and is pulled by eight horses. Most royals who ride in it have reportedly complained about how uncomfortable it is as it's not a smooth ride!





# Queen Victoria's Coronation

The ascension of Queen Victoria was on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1837 after the death of her uncle, William IV. Her coronation was held almost exactly a year later on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1838.

Queen Victoria's coronation is also known for the amount of mistakes and accidents in the five-hour long ceremony.

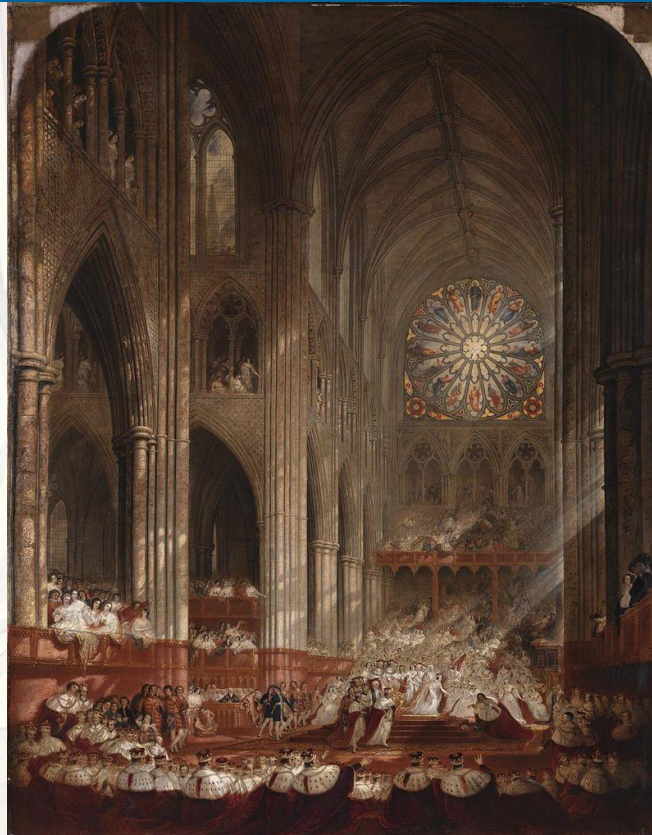


# Queen Victoria's Coronation



as seen by Sir George Hayter

# Queen Victoria's Coronation



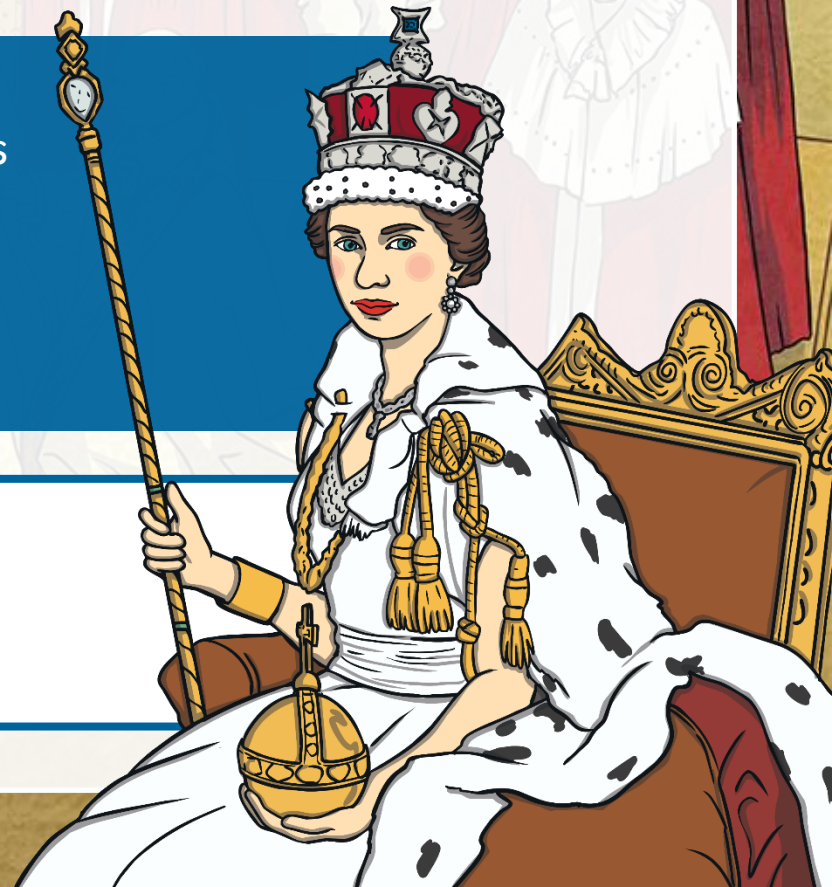
as seen by Sir George Hayter

# Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation

The ascension of Queen Elizabeth II was on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1952 after the death of her father, George VI. Her coronation was not until 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953. Queen Elizabeth II was 25 years old.

The exciting thing about this coronation was that, with television being new, it was the first coronation to be televised. Many people bought their first television just to watch it. Why not find some clips on the Internet and see it for yourself?

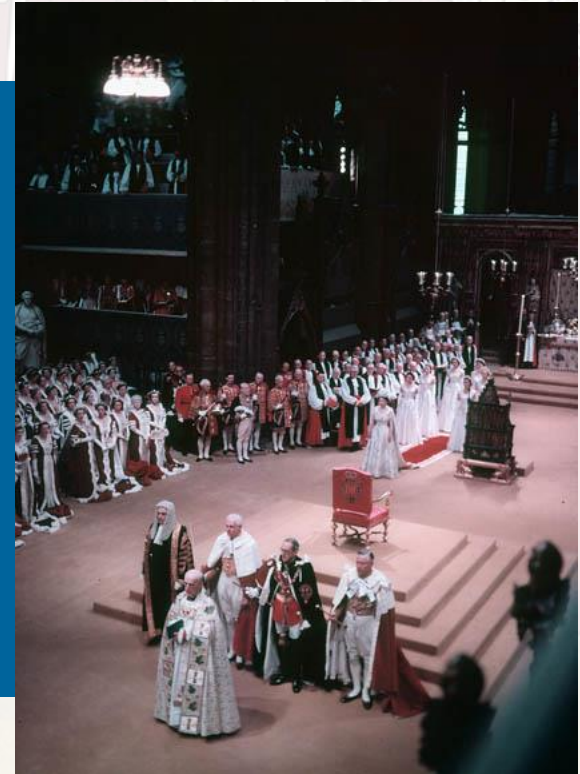
The ceremony lasted for three hours and was attended by more than 8000 guests.



# Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation Oath

The Coronation Oath has changed a little bit over the years but, just like the monarch before her, Queen Elizabeth II took the Coronation Oath:

**The Queen: I will.**





# Coronation Facts

The coronation service was created for the coronation of King Edgar in 973.

Edward V and Edward VIII never had coronations as they weren't on the throne long enough for them to happen.

George VI's coronation, in 1937, was broadcast by the BBC on the radio.

In the fictional history of the street in the TV programme, Coronation Street was built in 1902 in honour of the coronation of King Edward VII.

Coronation chicken was invented for the banquet of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation.

The coronation anthem 'Zadok the Priest', written by Handel, has been performed since 1727 at every coronation.



# Why Not Try...

watching footage of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation?

listening to the music 'Zadok the Priest' and see if you recognise it?

finding out more about the coronations of other monarchs?

