



FirstNews TEACHING RESOURCES

QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S CORONATION: DIARY OF A DAY

Take a closer look at the historic day when Princess Elizabeth formerly became Queen Elizabeth II.

Use this PowerPoint to take a close-up look at the photographs taken on the day of her Coronation - 2 June 1953.



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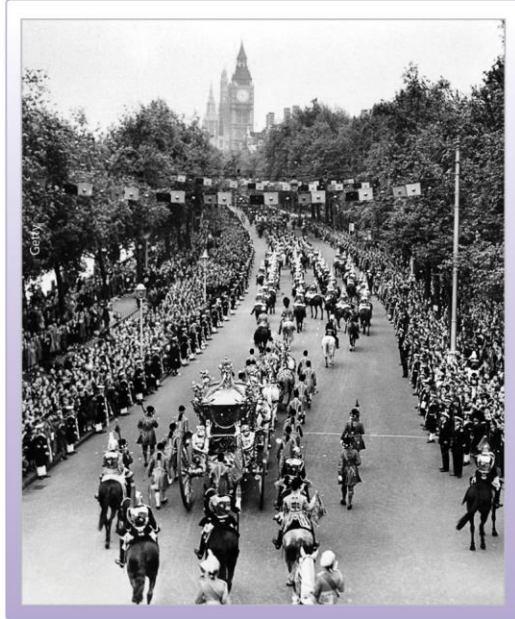


■ The royal carriage leaves Buckingham Palace on its way to Westminster Abbey

The day: On 2 June 1953, the whole of Great Britain joined in a spectacular celebration. It was Queen Elizabeth's Coronation – the day her title was officially recognised. There had been hopes that the weather would be glorious as it was summer but, unfortunately, it rained all day!

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- The royal carriage passes along Victoria Embankment



Early morning: At 6am, the doors to Westminster Abbey opened to the 8,251 guests. Around three million people gathered in the streets of London around Westminster Abbey, to ensure they had a good view of the Queen as she arrived. The procession included foreign royalty and heads of state. In fact, there were so many guests, that volunteers were required to fill the ranks of regular footmen!



■ Thousands of people watch as the Queen nears Westminster Abbey

Late morning: At 11am, people all over the world settled down in front of their television sets to watch the Coronation. More than 20 million people watched the ceremony in this way. The Queen agreed that the Coronation should be televised, so that as many people as possible could see this historic event.



Queen Elizabeth walks to the alter

The ceremony begins: The Coronation service was broken into six parts: the recognition, the oath, the anointing, the investiture – which includes the crowning – the enthronement and the homage. St. Edward’s Crown was carried into the Abbey before the Queen arrived. When she arrived at around 11am, the friction between her robes and the carpet meant that she found it hard to move forward. So she asked the Archbishop of Canterbury to: “Get me started!” Once the Queen had moved forward, the procession moved inside the Abbey, up the central aisle and through the choir to the stage.



Queen Elizabeth sits in Westminster Abbey

The Coronation Service: After the Queen moved to stand in front of the Coronation Chair, she turned in each direction of the compass, as Lords asked the audience: "Sirs, I here present unto you Queen Elizabeth, your undoubted Queen: wherefore all you who are come this day to do your homage and service, are you willing to do the same?" The crowd replied: "God save Queen Elizabeth," every time and the Queen curtsied in return. She then took the Coronation Oath, saying: "The things which I have here promised, I will perform, and keep. So help me God," before she kissed the bible.

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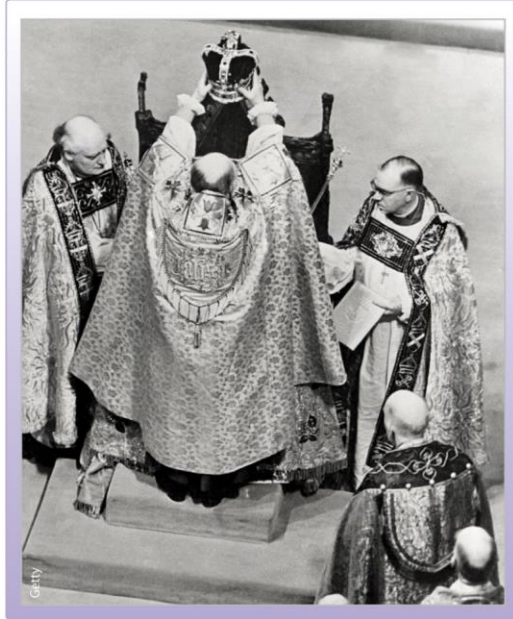
■ There was one part of the ceremony which was hidden from the TV cameras...



Secret part of the ceremony: There was one part of the ceremony which was hidden from the TV cameras. The Queen's jewellery and crimson cape were removed and she sat in the Coronation Chair. A cross was made on her forehead by the Archbishop of Canterbury, using the holy oil made from the same ingredient as was used in her father's Coronation. This part of the ceremony was completely private and hidden from the TV cameras by a silk canopy held above the Queen.

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- The Archbishop of Canterbury placed St Edward's Crown on the Queen's head, to finish the ceremony



The crowning: It was then that the actual crowning took place. After being handed the four symbols of authority – the orb, the sceptre, the rod of mercy and the royal ring of sapphire and rubies – the Archbishop of Canterbury placed St Edward's Crown (the official name for the Coronation Crown) on the Queen's head, to finish the ceremony.

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■ Queen Elizabeth II poses with the royal sceptre after being crowned on 2 June 1953



Queen Elizabeth II poses with the royal sceptre after being crowned on 2 June 1953.

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- Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip wave to the crowds from the balcony of the palace



The Queen celebrates: The newly crowned Queen appeared with her family on the balcony of the palace still wearing the Imperial State Crown and the Royal Robes to greet the cheering crowds. She appeared again on the balcony of Buckingham Palace at 9.45pm to turn on the 'lights of London'. The whole of London was illuminated to celebrate the exciting event.