

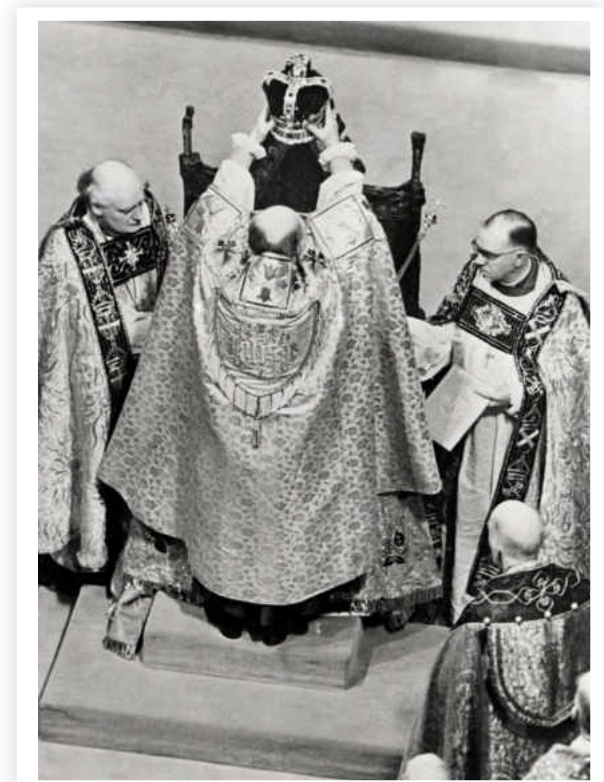
MONARCHS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

It is believed that the lower part of St. Edward's Crown, the crown placed upon Queen Elizabeth II's head during her Coronation service (right), is made from part of the crown belonging to Edward the Confessor.

Edward the Confessor ruled over England between 1042 and 1066.

The following pages will take you on a journey back in time to discover all the Kings and Queens who have worn this crown and through British history, dating back almost 1,000 years.

Along the way, you'll pick up some interesting facts about the Kings and Queens who have ruled over England. Enjoy your journey ...



ELIZABETH II



WINDSOR QUEEN

Interesting facts

- Elizabeth first discovered she was to become queen at the age of 11
- Elizabeth's Coronation was the first to be shown on television
- For more information on Elizabeth II's reign, see our other Diamond Jubilee teaching resources and *First News'* special commemorative issue

Question

- How many countries has Queen Elizabeth II visited during her reign?
- How old was the Queen's mother when she died?

1900s

1910s

1920s

1930s

1940s

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

Reigned 1952 - present day

GEORGE VI



WINDSOR KING

Interesting facts

- George VI was famous for having a stutter. The Oscar winning film, *The King's Speech* (which, itself, is based on a play) is about his attempts to overcome this
- He never wanted to be king
- He ruled at the time of WWII and was loved by the nation

Question

- Name George VI's children
- Who played George VI in the 2011 film, *The King's Speech*?

1900s

1910s

1920s

1930s

1940s

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

Reigned 1936 - 1952

EDWARD VIII



WINDSOR KING

Interesting facts

- Edward VIII was king for less than a year
- Edward fell in love with an American woman called Wallis Simpson and wanted to marry her. However, she was divorced and Parliament did not approve. Parliament offered Edward a choice: Wallis Simpson or the throne - he chose Wallis and abdicated

Question

- Edward VIII has been described as a 'disastrous king'. What evidence can you find to support this claim?

1900s

1910s

1920s

1930s

1940s

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

Reigned 1936

GEORGE V



WINDSOR KING

Interesting facts

- George was a keen sailor
- George enjoyed a quiet, calm life
- He reigned during WWI
- George was the first monarch to deliver a Christmas message (via radio) to the people of Britain. Since then, a monarch has addressed the nation every Christmas

Question

- Who was George V's father?
- Many other famous historical events occurred during George's reign. Can you find three?

1900s

1910s

1920s

1930s

1940s

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

Reigned 1910 - 1936

EDWARD VII



SAXE-COBURG-GOTHA

Interesting facts

- Edward was Queen Victoria's son
- He spent almost 60 years waiting to become king – he was crowned at the age of 59
- He enjoyed the finer things in life – including hunting and fine foods
- King Edward potatoes are named after Edward VII

Question

- Edward VII was also known as 'Edward the Peacemaker' - how did he get this name?

1900s

1910s

1920s

1930s

1940s

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

Reigned 1901 - 1910

VICTORIA



HANOVERIAN QUEEN

Interesting facts

- Victoria became queen when she 18 years old.
- Victoria was only 5 ft tall
- In 1840 she married her cousin, Albert, and eventually gave him the name Prince Consort. They had nine children together
- When Albert died in 1861, Victoria spent the rest of her life wearing black clothes
- She is the longest reigning monarch in British history

Question

- Queen Victoria is famous for saying four words. Can you find the phrase?

1800s

1810s

1820s

1830s

1840s

1850s

1860s

1870s

1880s

1890s

1900s

Reigned 1837 - 1901

WILLIAM IV



HANOVERIAN KING

Interesting facts

- William IV came to the throne at the age of 64
- He had spent the majority of his life in the navy. As a result, he was nicknamed the 'Sailor King'
- Some considered William IV to be 'peculiar' - mainly due to his unusual dress sense
- Slavery was abolished during William's reign
- Charles Dickens wrote and released his classic novel *Oliver Twist* during William's reign

Question

- At what age did William join the navy?

1750s

1760s

1770s

1780s

1790s

1800s

1810s

1820s

1830s

1840s

1850s

Reigned 1830 - 1837

GEORGE IV



HANOVERIAN KING

Interesting facts

- George IV was known for being quite an 'extravagant' king
- George built the Brighton Pavilion - an extravagant palace in Brighton
- George spent the final years of his reign overweight, in bed

Question

- George IV enjoyed reading the novels of a very famous British author. What was her name?

1750's

1760's

1770's

1780's

1790's

1800's

1810's

1820's

1830's

1840's

1850's

Reigned 1820 - 1830

GEORGE III



HANOVERIAN KING

Interesting facts

- George III was a king loved by many
- George's nickname was 'Farmer George'
- He was the first king of both Great Britain and Ireland
- George went mad towards the end of his reign, and as a result, his son had to take over as king in 1811

Question

- What were some of the symptoms caused by George III's mental illness?
- What was the name of George III's wife?

1750's

1760's

1770's

1780's

1790's

1800's

1810's

1820's

1830's

1840's

1850's

Reigned 1760 - 1820

GEORGE II



HANOVERIAN KING

Interesting facts

- George II had a troubled relationship with his father, George I. Sometimes they wouldn't speak for years at a time
- When he was young he tried to swim across a castle moat to see his mother, Sofia, who was imprisoned by George I
- George II was the last king to lead an army into battle
- George II was German, but learned the English language

Question

- How many children did George II have?

1700's

1710's

1720's

1730's

1740's

1750's

1760's

1770's

1780's

1790's

1800's

Reigned 1727 - 1760

GEORGE I



HANOVERIAN KING

Interesting facts

- George I became king quite late in his life, at the age of 54
- George was German and spent most of his life in Germany. He barely spoke any English
- Britain's first Prime Minister, Robert Walpole, was appointed during George's reign

Question

- George I imprisoned his wife, Sophia, for a long time. How long was she imprisoned for?

1700's

1710's

1720's

1730's

1740's

1750's

1760's

1770's

1780's

1790's

1800's

Reigned 1714 - 1727

ANNE



STUART QUEEN

Interesting facts

- Anne was Mary II's sister
- Anne suffered from a disease called gout. Because of her condition, she actually had to be carried in a chair to be coronated
- The Act of Union occurred during her reign - England and Scotland became Great Britain
- Anne had 18 children. Tragically, they all died

Question

- St Paul's Cathedral was completed during Anne's reign. In what year was it completed?

1700's

1710's

1720's

1730's

1740's

1750's

1760's

1770's

1780's

1790's

1800's

Reigned 1702 - 1714

WILLIAM III AND MARY II



STUART KING AND QUEEN

Interesting facts

- After being encouraged to take the crown from James II, by Parliament, William III ruled the country with his wife, Mary. William III and Mary II were the only monarchs to rule together, as equals
- The pair ruled together until Mary II died of smallpox in 1694
- For the next eight years, William ruled on his own

Question

- William III died following an accident on his horse. What happened exactly?

1600's

1610's

1620's

1630's

1640's

1650's

1660's

1670's

1680's

1690's

1700's

Reigned 1689 - 1702

JAMES II



STUART KING

Interesting facts

- James II was a devout Catholic - while the majority of England were still Protestant
- He put many of his Catholic friends in positions of power
- Parliament encouraged the Protestant prince, William of Orange (later William III), to invade and take over as king. James quickly left England, fleeing to France

Question

- James married a Catholic princess during his reign. What was her name?

1600's

1610's

1620's

1630's

1640's

1650's

1660's

1670's

1680's

1690's

1700's

Reigned 1685 - 1689

CHARLES II



STUART KING

Interesting facts

- Charles II was known to some as the 'Merry Monarch'
- Charles ruled the country at the time of both the Plague and the Great Fire of London
- Many famous structures were erected during this time - including St. Paul's Cathedral in London

Question

- Who built St. Paul's Cathedral?
- What caused the Great Fire of London?

1600's

1610's

1620's

1630's

1640's

1650's

1660's

1670's

1680's

1690's

1700's

Reigned 1660 - 1685

OLIVER CROMWELL



INTERREGNUM

Interesting facts

- Following the execution of Charles I, Oliver Cromwell ruled the country as a republic called the Commonwealth
- He was actually offered the chance to be king of England, but refused
- He was a religious man, but actually banned the celebration of religious holidays like Christmas and Easter

Question

- Why did Oliver Cromwell decide to get rid of Christmas?

1600s

1610s

1620s

1630s

1640s

1650s

1660s

1670s

1680s

1690s

1700s

Reigned 1649 - 1660

CHARLES I



STUART KING

Interesting facts

- Charles had several disagreements with Parliament during his reign
- For 11 years Charles ruled the country without Parliament and imposed his own taxes
- Charles I was married to a French princess, who was a Catholic. Because of her religion, most of the country shunned her
- The start of the English Civil War began during his reign and Parliament had Charles I executed

Question

- Charles I wasn't the tallest of kings - how tall was he?

1600s

1610s

1620s

1630s

1640s

1650s

1660s

1670s

1680s

1690s

1700s

Reigned 1625 - 1649

JAMES I



STUART KING

Interesting facts

- James I was also James VI, King of Scotland
- He strongly believed that all kings were chosen by God
- Guy Fawkes famously tried to blow up Parliament in the Gunpowder Plot during James I's reign
- James constantly feared that people were trying to kill him, so much so, he constantly wore a padded suit
- James I had the bible translated into English for the first time

Question

- James had a famous mother - what was her name?
- How is 'Guy Fawkes night' celebrated today?

1600s

1610s

1620s

1630s

1640s

1650s

1660s

1670s

1680s

1690s

1700s

Reigned 1603 - 1625

ELIZABETH I



TUDOR QUEEN

Interesting facts

- Elizabeth I never married. Although she said she was married to her country, she was known to be lonely
- Elizabeth was well known for her red hair and wearing lots of white make-up
- Apparently, Elizabeth owned around 3,000 dresses

Question

- Who were Elizabeth I's parents?
- Elizabeth's reign is seen as Britain's 'Golden Age' – what does this mean?

1550s

1560s

1570s

1580s

1590s

1600s

1610s

1620s

1630s

1640s

1650s

Reigned 1558 - 1603

MARY I



TUDOR QUEEN

Interesting facts

- Mary I was known for her fiery temper - some believe she got this from her father, Henry VIII!
- She spent the majority of her reign trying to turn England into a Catholic country
- She married Philip II of Spain in 1554
- She did not have any children

Question

- Mary I is better known for her nickname, 'Bloody Mary' - how did she earn this nickname?

1450s

1460s

1470s

1480s

1490s

1500s

1510s

1520s

1530s

1540s

1550s

Reigned 1553 - 1558

EDWARD VI



TUDOR KING

Interesting facts

- Edward came to the throne at the age of nine, but only ruled for six years, dying at the age of 15
- Because of his age, Edward had powerful men rule for him. First it was his Lord Protector, Edward Seymour, then John Dudley, the Duke of Northumberland. Together they made England a Protestant country

Question

- What did Edward VI die of?

1450s

1460s

1470s

1480s

1490s

1500s

1510s

1520s

1530s

1540s

1550s

Reigned 1547 - 1553

HENRY VIII



TUDOR KING

Interesting facts

- Henry VIII is one of the most famous of all the British monarchs - but even more famous for his terrible temper!
- Henry VIII wanted to have a son, so when his wife Catherine of Aragon gave birth to a baby girl, Mary, he divorced her
- Henry had a total of six wives in his life. He divorced two and beheaded two
- Henry VIII established the Church of England

Question

- Can you name all of Henry VIII's six wives?

1450s

1460s

1470s

1480s

1490s

1500s

1510s

1520s

1530s

1540s

1550s

Reigned 1509 - 1547

HENRY VII



TUDOR KING

Interesting facts

- Many people tried to take the crown from Henry VII across his reign
- Henry VII, a member of the Lancaster family, united the House of Lancaster and the House of York, by marrying Elizabeth of York
- Henry's marriage to Elizabeth was arranged

Question

- What is the Tudor Rose?
- Many people tried to take the crown from Henry VII across his reign. Can you name one of these people and describe what they did to try and take the crown?

1450s

1460s

1470s

1480s

1490s

1500s

1510s

1520s

1530s

1540s

1550s

Reigned 1485 - 1509

RICHARD III



YORK KING

Interesting facts

- Richard is known for being the very last King of England to die on the battlefield, dying at the hands of Henry Tudor
- Shakespeare wrote the play *Richard III* based on the York King's life, depicting him as a cruel man with a hunchback
- Richard was given the nickname 'Richard Crookback' because of his alleged hunchback

Question

- During which famous battle did Richard III die?
- It is thought that Richard III killed his nephews. What were their names?

1450s

1460s

1470s

1480s

1490s

1500s

1510s

1520s

1530s

1540s

1550s

Reigned 1483 - 1485

EDWARD V



YORK KING

Interesting facts

- Edward should have inherited the crown at 13 years old
- Edward never actually inherited the crown - his uncle, Richard, locked him and his brother in the Tower of London and took the crown from him, going on to become the infamous Richard III

Question

- Many believed that Richard killed Edward and his younger brother, but nothing was ever proven. What do you think? Use research to support your argument

1450s

1460s

1470s

1480s

1490s

1500s

1510s

1520s

1530s

1540s

1550s

Reigned 9 April - 26 June 1483

EDWARD IV



YORK KING

Interesting facts

- Edward IV was driven from the throne by his noblemen, for doing a bad job as king
- 1470 - 1471: Henry VI is brought in for one year (a former king), but didn't help things
- Edward IV is brought back as king - he does a much better job the second time around
- Edward was well known for being a strong soldier

Question

- The first printing press was created during Edward's reign. Who was the man responsible for printing the first book in English?

1450s

1460s

1470s

1480s

1490s

1500s

1510s

1520s

1530s

1540s

1550s

Reigned 1461 - 1483

HENRY VI



LANCASTER KING

Interesting facts

- Henry took to the throne at just 9 months old
- Henry VI was known for being a religious man who despised violence of any kind. Some believed he was mad
- Richard, Duke of York fought Henry for the throne, causing the War of the Roses. Following the war, Henry VI was imprisoned in the Tower of London
- In 1470 he returned as king for one year, but was sent back to the Tower of London and later murdered

Question

- Why was the War of the Roses called the War of the Roses?

1400s

1410s

1420s

1430s

1440s

1450s

1460s

1470s

1480s

1490s

1500s

Reigned 1422 - 1461

HENRY V



LANCASTER KING

Interesting facts

- Some believe Henry V to be one of the country's greatest monarchs
- He led England to victory against the French at the Battle of Agincourt during his reign
- Henry V almost became king of France, as well as England, but died before he could inherit the crown

Question

- In what year did the Battle of Agincourt take place?
- Who did Henry V marry?
- Who wrote Henry V's life story as a play?

1350s

1360s

1370s

1380s

1390s

1400s

1410s

1420s

1430s

1440s

1450s

Reigned 1413 - 1422

HENRY IV



LANCASTER KING

Interesting facts

- When Henry IV succeeded the crown, he spent the majority of his reign trying to keep it
- Henry IV died of leprosy in 1413

Question

- Henry IV was the first king of the House of Lancaster. What is the symbol that represents the House of Lancaster?
- How old was Henry IV when he died?

1350s

1360s

1370s

1380s

1390s

1400s

1410s

1420s

1430s

1440s

1450s

Reigned 1399 - 1413

RICHARD II



PLANTAGENET KING

Interesting facts

- Richard II faced the Peasant's Revolt during his reign, which was the result of the introduction of the Poll Tax
- Richard spent a lot of his wealth on expensive clothes
- Many believed that Richard II was responsible for introducing the hankerchief to England

Question

- Where did Richard II die?
- The Peasant's Revolt occurred during Richard II's reign. What was this?

1300s

1310s

1320s

1330s

1340s

1350s

1360s

1370s

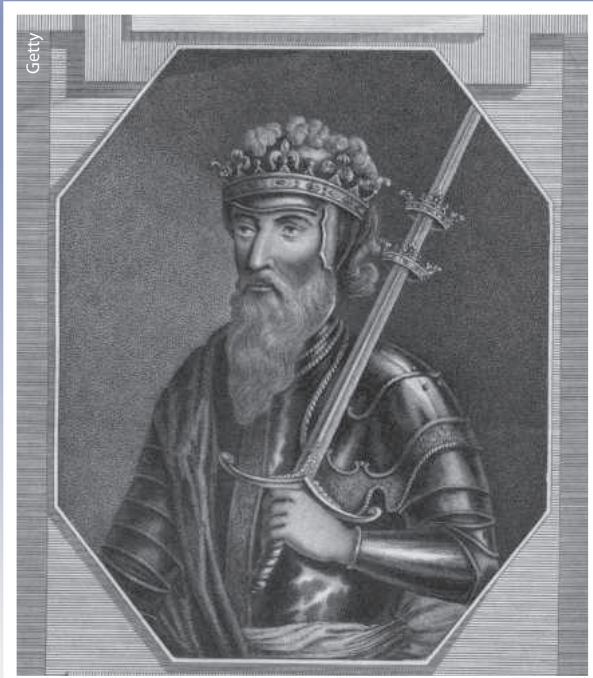
1380s

1390s

1400s

Reigned 1377 - 1399

EDWARD III



PLANTAGENET KING

Interesting facts

- Edward III became king when he was 14 years old
- Because of his age, for the first few years of Edward's reign, the country was ruled by the man that murdered his father, Mortimer
- Edward III was the founder of the Order of the Garter – this is still the highest order of chivalry existing in this country
- The House of Lords was established during his reign

Question

- In what year did Edward III have Mortimer executed?

1300s

1310s

1320s

1330s

1340s

1350s

1360s

1370s

1380s

1390s

1400s

Reigned 1327 - 1377

EDWARD II



PLANTAGENET KING

Interesting facts

- Edward II was known for not being a very good king - uninterested in his responsibilities
- Because of his behaviour, his wife, with the help of an army, overthrew Edward, making their son king
- Edward was killed with a red hot poker

Question

- What was the name of Edward II's wife?
- How old was Edward II's son when he inherited the throne?

1300s

1310s

1320s

1330s

1340s

1350s

1360s

1370s

1380s

1390s

1400s

Reigned 1307 - 1327

EDWARD I



PLANTAGENET KING

Interesting facts

- Edward was given the nickname 'Longshanks' because he was very tall
- He spent years fighting wars against the Scots. As such, some referred to Edward I as the 'Hammer of the Scots'
- The Model Parliament was formed during Edward I's reign. Parliament met regularly, henceforth

Question

- At what age did Edward I marry and who did he marry?
- In what year was the Model Parliament formed?

1250s

1260s

1270s

1280s

1290s

1300s

1310s

1320s

1330s

1340s

1350s

Reigned 1272 - 1307

HENRY III



PLANTAGENET KING

Interesting facts

- Henry III was only nine years old when he became king of England
- Henry was a big animal fan. He even kept a polar bear at the Tower of London
- During his reign Henry III rebuilt Westminster Abbey

Question

- Being nine years old, Henry was too young to govern the country. At what age did Henry take control of the country?

1200s

1210s

1220s

1230s

1240s

1250s

1260s

1270s

1280s

1290s

1300s

Reigned 1216 - 1272

KING JOHN



PLANTAGENET KING

Interesting facts

- He is the only king of England ever to be called John
- He is famous for being a greedy and rather unpleasant king
- King John's advisers forced him to sign the Magna Carta in 1215. The Magna Carta decreed that rulers had to listen to their advisers

Question

- How old was King John when he inherited the throne?
- Where was King John forced to sign the Magna Carta?

1150s

1160s

1170s

1180s

1190s

1200s

1210s

1220s

1230s

1240s

1250s

Reigned 1199 - 1216

RICHARD I



PLANTAGENET KING

Interesting facts

- He was also known as 'Richard the Lionheart', for his bravery
- Richard I spent less than a year in England over the ten years that he reigned
- Richard left England in chaos, while fighting overseas. The country was run by barons, local sherrifs and Richard's brother John (later to become King John) - this story inspired the story of Robin Hood (the rebel famous for stealing from the rich and giving to the poor)

Question

- Where was Richard I buried?

1100s

1110s

1120s

1130s

1140s

1150s

1160s

1170s

1180s

1190s

1200s

Reigned 1189 - 1199

HENRY II



PLANTAGENET KING

Interesting facts

- Because the previous king (Stephen) had died without an heir to the throne. Henry II, the grandson of an even earlier king became king.
- He is known for creating a fairer justice and tax system in England
- He spent a decade of his reign arguing with Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury. This led to a group of Henry's knights killing Becket in 1170

Question

- Where did the Plantagenets get their name from?
- How did Henry II react to the death of the Archbishop of Canterbury?

1100s

1110s

1120s

1130s

1140s

1150s

1160s

1170s

1180s

1190s

1200s

Reigned 1154 - 1189

KING STEPHEN



NORMAN KING

Interesting facts

- Stephen was known for being a kind king. Apparently, because of his kindness, he struggled to control some of his subjects
- He also had trouble with Matilda, the previous king's (Henry I's) daughter as she thought she should be Queen. They fought for over two decades over who should wear the crown. Civil war resulted
- His reign was known as 'The Nineteen-Year Winter'

Question

- Where was Stephen born?
- Who was Stephen's grandfather?

1100s

1110s

1120s

1130s

1140s

1150s

1160s

1170s

1180s

1190s

1200s

Reigned 1135 - 1154

HENRY I



NORMAN KING

Interesting facts

- Henry was well known for being the 'cleverest' son of William the Conqueror
- Once Henry inherited the throne, his brother Robert of Normandy challenged him for it. After defeating Robert at the battle of Tinchebrai, Henry imprisoned him
- After the death of his son, William, Henry wanted his daughter Matilda to become his heir

Question

- Why did Matilda never inherit the throne?
- Henry I had 26 illegitimate children. Is this true or false?

1100s

1110s

1120s

1130s

1140s

1150s

1160s

1170s

1180s

1190s

1200s

Reigned 1100 - 1135

WILLIAM II



NORMAN KING

Interesting facts

- William II was well known for his red hair and as a result, was nicknamed 'Rufus', which means 'red'
- Religion was not a big part of William's life and he used a lot of Church property for his own personal use
- William died while he was hunting in the New Forest

Question

- What was William II's relation to Robert, Duke of Normandy?
- William died while out hunting, but what exactly killed him?

1000s

1010s

1020s

1030s

1040s

1050s

1060s

1070s

1080s

1090s

1100s

Reigned 1087 - 1100

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR



NORMAN KING

Interesting facts

- William had been promised the crown by Edward the Confessor's. But Edward passed it on to Harold II and William felt betrayed. William confronted Harold at the Battle of Hastings, killed him and claimed the throne
- William's Coronation took place at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day, 1066
- The majority of the English were not happy to be ruled by William, as he was a foreign king

Question

- William introduced the feudal system in England. What was this?

1000s

1010s

1020s

1030s

1040s

1050s

1060s

1070s

1080s

1090s

1100s

Reigned 1066 - 1087

HAROLD II



SAXON KING

Interesting facts

- Harold was the very first English King to die on the battle field
- Edward the Confessor handed the throne over to Harold on his deathbed, despite promising it to William the Conqueror
- He had seven children

Question

- What was Harold II's full name?
- Two other British kings have died in battle, to date. Who were they?

1000s

1010s

1020s

1030s

1040s

1050s

1060s

1070s

1080s

1090s

1100s

Reigned 5 January - 14 October 1066

EDWARD THE CONFESSOR



SAXON KING

Interesting facts

- Some believed that Edward could perform miracles. Following his death, he became a saint - 'The Confessor'
- Edward built the first ever Abbey – Westminster Abbey in London
- St Edward's Crown (one of the crowns Queen Elizabeth II wore on her Coronation day) dates back to St. Edward the Confessor, who wore the original back in 1065

Question

- In which country was Edward the Confessor brought up?
- How many Kings and Queens have reigned since Edward the Confessor?

1000s

1010s

1020s

1030s

1040s

1050s

1060s

1070s

1080s

1090s

1100s

Reigned 1042 - 1066