



United
Kingdom
(Europe)

Timeline of Significant Monarchs since 1066

1066-1087	1199-1216	1483-1485	1509-1547	1558-1603	1649-1660	1660-1685	1702-1714	1760-1820	1837-1901	1936-1942	1952 – Present Day
King William I	King John	King Richard III	King Henry VIII	Queen Elizabeth I	Oliver Cromwell	King Charles II	Queen Anne	King George III	Queen Victoria	King George VI	Queen Elizabeth II

Key Vocabulary

abdicate	To retire or resign the throne to someone else. Famously, King Edward VII abdicated to George VI in 1936.
British Empire	India, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa were all under British rule between 1750-1850 ruling 1/4 of the world's population, seen by many to end in 1997.
commonwealth	After independence, 53 former British colonies joined the Commonwealth of Nations to shape policies & priorities.
coronation	The ceremony of crowning someone king or queen.
descendant	Kings and queens are born into royalty and are therefore related directly to a royal ancestor.
heir	The heir to the throne is the next person in line to take the throne when the current sovereign dies or abdicates.
monarch	A sovereign head of state (king, queen or emperor).
noble	Ranked under royalty, still with hereditary privileges.
reign	The period of time in which a monarch rules.
throne	A decorative chair used by a king or queen, now used as a term to refer to power.

Oliver Cromwell (an English military leader) helped overthrow King Charles I in 1643 and became Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland, causing the temporary downfall of the English Monarchy!

General Knowledge

Before 1066, the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings ruled the United Kingdom and when William of Normandy defeated King Harold II of England at the Battle of Hastings, it marked new beginnings where families could rule for long periods (dynasties). There have been six main dynasties since:

- 1.) The Normans
- 2.) The Plantagenets
- 3.) The Tudors
- 4.) The Stuarts
- 5.) The Hanoverians
- 6.) The Windsors



The first Stuart monarch (James I) was king of both Scotland and England and was the first to rule both. The United Kingdom (now including Wales and Northern Ireland) has been ruled by a single monarch ever since. Queen Elizabeth II currently rules and is part of the Windsor dynasty.

There are special rules which apply to who inherits the crown. The monarch's first born child is 1st in line. In this case it is Prince Charles and his first born is Prince William.

Famous Figures

William I (The Conqueror)

Defeated the Anglo-Saxons and never lost a battle. Wanted to introduce tax so created a census called 'The Domesday Book'.

Richard III

Thought to only have become king by locking his nephews in the Tower of London. The last Plantagenet who lost the Battle of Bosworth to the Lancasters.

Henry VIII

Famed for having six wives (two of which were beheaded). He broke ties with the Catholic Church making England a Protestant country and made himself head of the Church of England.

Elizabeth I

Helped defeat the Spanish Armada but had no children of her own so the crown was passed to King of Scotland who then ruled Scotland and England (James I).

Victoria

Had 37 grandchildren who occupied thrones throughout Europe giving her the nickname 'The Grandmother of Europe'.