

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

This year The Queen celebrates 60 years on the throne. The British Monarch will be celebrating her Diamond Jubilee at the beginning of June. Special celebrations will take place across Britain between 2-6 June. The Queen came to the throne on 6th February 1952. Her coronation took place on the 2nd June 1953. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee (25 years) in 1977 and her Golden Jubilee (50 years) in 2002. The only other Monarch to celebrate a Diamond Jubilee was Queen Victoria in 1897. Communities around the country will be celebrating the specially extended bank holiday weekend between the 2-5 June. During this particular weekend The Queen will be at several events including the Epsom Derby on Saturday 2nd June. Sunday 3rd June will see the fourth annual Big Lunch (street parties countrywide) take place. Anyone who wants to celebrate this can do so on this day.

The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant will also take place on Sunday 3rd June. Up to a thousand boats will muster on the river Thames as The Queen prepares to lead one of the biggest flotillas ever seen on the river Thames. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee festival will take place in Battersea Park. The festival will celebrate design, music, art, film, fashion and food from the past 60 years. It will also be a good place to see the pageant. Monday 4th June will see a concert at Buckingham Palace. Organised by the BBC the concert will be watched by The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the royal family. The concert will be broadcast by the BBC and will also be available on big screens in Hyde Park, St James's Park and The Mall. Monday 4th June will also see the lighting of the beacons. These will be lit in the UK and throughout the world to commemorate The Queens' 60-year reign over the UK and as Head of the Commonwealth.

Tuesday 5th June will see a service of thanksgiving and carriage procession. The Queen and other members of the royal family will attend a service at St Paul's Cathedral in London. A 'Diamond choir' from around the country will sing a specially composed song to the Queen. As a result of the celebrations, London will be extremely busy over this period. The late May day bank holiday has been moved to Monday 4th June 2012 and an additional Jubilee bank holiday will take place on Tuesday 5th June 2012. Schools in England and Wales will be closed during this period.

Category: Britain / The Queen / Diamond Jubilee

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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Let's discover what you know about the following...

The Big Lunch (street parties) – Sunday 3rd June

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant – Sunday 3rd June

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The Concert – Monday 4th June

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The lighting of the beacons – Monday 4th June

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Buckingham Palace (Generally)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

St Paul's cathedral (Generally)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

EXERCISES

1. **The Queen:** Think of three things you know about The Queen. Go round the room swapping details with others.

2. **Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. **Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. **Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. **The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

6. **Geography: London:** Where is London? Where is Buckingham Palace? Where is St Paul's Cathedral? Which river goes through London? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

7. **The Queen's Diamond Jubilee:** In pairs find five things from the article about The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Then add five things about the occasion you know about it. Write them below. Discuss together.

From the article	What <u>you</u> know about it
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____
4 _____	4 _____
5 _____	5 _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

8. **Let's roleplay 1:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Radio London* radio studio. Today's interview is about: *The Queen's Diamond Jubilee*.

1 The Queen	3 A London taxi driver
2 A tourist visiting London	4 A Londoner

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee – 25th May 2012

9. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **The Queen**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

10. **Let's roleplay 2:** In pairs. You are in a pub in London. Start a conversation about: *The Queen's Diamond Jubilee*. *5-minutes*.

11. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) What year did The Queen come to the throne?
- 2) When was The Queen's coronation?
- 3) What is The Queen's Diamond Jubilee?
- 4) What will be lit?
- 5) The Queen is Head of what?

Student B

- 1) Name the other Queen.
- 2) What year did this other Queen celebrate her Diamond Jubilee?
- 3) What is the Diamond Jubilee Pageant?
- 4) What will happen on Tuesday 5th June?
- 5) What is the Big Lunch?

12. **Souvenir luv!** With your partner think of as many different souvenirs you might be able to buy at a souvenir stall in London over the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The teacher can choose some pairs to put their findings on the board.

13. **Royalty!** In pairs, think of five members of the British royal family. Then add five previous British Kings and Queens. Write them below. Discuss together. Then think of three things about each of them!

The British Royal Family	Famous British Kings and Queens
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____
4 _____	4 _____
5 _____	5 _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class

14. **Presentation:** In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: **The Queen's Diamond Jubilee**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation.

15. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **The Queen**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

16. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

a) The Queen _____

b) The Diamond Jubilee _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Have you ever been to London? Explain.
- 3) Will you be watching The Queen's Diamond Jubilee?
- 4) What do you think of The Queen?
- 5) What do you think The Queen thinks of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations?
- 6) Will you be celebrating The Queen's Diamond Jubilee? Explain.
- 7) What do you know about British street parties that are celebrated on Jubilees (the Big Lunch)?
- 8) What do you know about the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant?
- 9) What message do you have for The Queen?
- 10) Will you be visiting London this year?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you have read?
- 2) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?
- 3) Who is the Head of your country?
- 4) Do you light beacons on special occasions in your country?
- 5) What event(s) bring your nation together?
- 6) Have you ever seen a royal pageant before?
- 7) What is the biggest concert you have been to?
- 8) Have you ever seen The Queen face to face (live)? Explain.
- 9) Do you ever have street parties in your country?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! 60 years of Queen Elizabeth II

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

20 things about: 60 years of Queen Elizabeth II

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

This year The Queen celebrates 60 years on the (1)____. The British Monarch will be celebrating her (2)____ Jubilee at the beginning of June. Special celebrations will take place across Britain between 2-6 June. The Queen came to the throne on 6th February 1952. Her (3)____ took place on the 2nd June 1953. She celebrated her Silver (4)____ (25 years) in 1977 and her Golden Jubilee (50 years) in 2002. The only other Monarch to (5)____ a Diamond Jubilee was Queen Victoria in 1897. Communities around the country will be celebrating the specially extended bank holiday (6)____ between the 2-5 June. During this particular weekend The Queen will be at several (7)____ including the Epsom Derby on Saturday 2nd June. Sunday 3rd June will see the fourth annual Big Lunch (street parties (8)____) take place. Anyone who wants to celebrate this can do so on this day.

Jubilee

events

countrywide

weekend

Diamond

celebrate

throne

coronation

The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant will also take place on Sunday 3rd June. Up to a thousand boats will (1)____ on the river Thames as The Queen prepares to lead one of the biggest (2)____ ever seen on the river Thames. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee festival will take place in Battersea Park. The (3)____ will celebrate design, music, art, film, (4)____ and food from the past 60 years. It will also be a good place to see the (5)____. Monday 4th June will see a concert at Buckingham Palace. Organised by the BBC the (6)____ will be watched by The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the royal family. The concert will be broadcast by the BBC and will also be available on big screens in Hyde Park, St James's Park and The Mall. Monday 4th June will also see the lighting of the (7)____. These will be lit in the UK and throughout the world to commemorate The Queens' 60 year (8)____ over the UK and as Head of the Commonwealth.

concert

flotillas

beacons

fashion

festival

muster

reign

pageant

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

This year The Queen celebrates 60 years on the throne. The British Monarch will be celebrating her Diamond Jubilee at the beginning (1)___ June. Special celebrations will take place across Britain between 2-6 June. The Queen came to (2)___ throne on 6th February 1952. (3)___ coronation took place on the 2nd June 1953. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee (25 years) in 1977 (4)___ her Golden Jubilee (50 years) in 2002. The only other Monarch to celebrate (5)___ Diamond Jubilee was Queen Victoria (6)___ 1897. Communities around the country will be celebrating the specially extended bank holiday weekend between the 2-5 June. During this particular weekend The Queen will be at several events including the Epson Derby on Saturday 2nd June. Sunday 3rd June will see the fourth annual Big Lunch (street parties countrywide) take place. Anyone (7)___ wants to celebrate this (8)___ do so on this day.

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The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant will (1)___ take place on Sunday 3rd June. Up to a thousand boats will muster on the river Thames as The Queen prepares to lead one of the biggest flotillas (2)___ seen on the river Thames. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee festival (3)___ take place in Battersea Park. The festival will celebrate design, music, art, film, fashion and food (4)___ the past 60 years. It will also be a good place to see the pageant. Monday 4th June will see a concert at Buckingham Palace. Organised by the BBC the concert will be watched by The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and (5)___ members of the royal family. The concert will be broadcast by the BBC and will also be available on big screens in Hyde Park, St James's Park and The Mall. Monday 4th June will also see the lighting of the beacons. (6)___ will be lit in the UK and throughout the world to commemorate The Queens' 60-year reign (7)___ the UK and as Head of the Commonwealth.

other

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from

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	communities	11	muster
2	service	12	pageant
3	cathedral	13	several
4	extremely	14	beginning
5	additional	15	coronation
6	broadcast	16	celebrate
7	flotillas	17	beacons
8	countrywide	18	thanksgiving
9	specially	19	celebrations
10	between	20	procession

LINKS

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/Features/DG_WP200687

<http://www.thediamondjubilee.org/>

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/HMTheQueen/TheQueenandspecialanniversaries/TheQueensDiamondJubilee2012/TheQueensDiamondJubilee2012.aspx>

<http://www.visitlondon.com/events/detail/7693688-queens-diamond-jubilee>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17500000>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: The Queen's Diamond Jubilee: This year The Queen celebrates 60 years on the **throne**. The British Monarch will be celebrating her **Diamond** Jubilee at the beginning of June. Special celebrations will take place across Britain between 2-6 June. The Queen came to the throne on 6th February 1952. Her **coronation** took place on the 2nd June 1953. She celebrated her Silver **Jubilee** (25 years) in 1977 and her Golden Jubilee (50 years) in 2002. The only other Monarch to **celebrate** a Diamond Jubilee was Queen Victoria in 1897. Communities around the country will be celebrating the specially extended bank holiday **weekend** between the 2-5 June. During this particular weekend The Queen will be at several **events** including the Epsom Derby on Saturday 2nd June. Sunday 3rd June will see the fourth annual Big Lunch (street parties **countrywide**) take place. Anyone who wants to celebrate this can do so on this day.

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