

EDWARD AND MRS SIMPSON

When George V *died* in 1936, his eldest son, Edward VIII, was 41 and unmarried. As Prince of Wales he had acquired great personal popularity, both at home and in the empire.

He *spent* much of his time living in France with his closest friend, Mrs Wallis Simpson. She *was* an American with one divorced husband and another whom she was divorcing. Edward's relationship with Mrs Simpson was the talk of the world's press, but by a voluntary agreement the British newspaper *avoided* all mention of it.

Edward *declared* that he *wanted* to marry her and *proposed* a marriage in which Mrs Simpson would be his wife but not his queen. Most people in Britain *were* against the proposal. Edward *chose* to abdicate (give up the throne) in 1936 and *married* Mrs Simpson in 1937.



Edward VII and Mrs Wallis Simpson



King George VI

GEORGE VI

Edward's successor was his brother Albert, Duke of York, who *took* the title of George VI in 1936. The new King was a quiet, shy man with a speech impediment. But he *had* the great advantage of a beautiful and popular wife, Elizabeth (later known as the Queen Mother), and together they *gained* the respect and affection of the people.

George VI had an extremely difficult reign, during which he took upon himself the task of maintaining the morale of the British people throughout World War II.

Adapted from British History. Modern Britain 1914- present. (pages 10-11)

Compréhension écrite: A2/ A2+

1. Answer the questions in English:

- What happened in 1936?

- How old was Edward?

- What was Edward's title?

- Where did Edward live most of the time?

- Who was with him? What nationality was she?

- What happened in 1937?

2. Answer the question in French and give key words from the text:

- Edward était-il estimé par ses sujets?

- Qui parlait des ragots sur sa vie privée ?

- Quel type de mariage voulait-il faire ?

3. Answer the questions in English:

- What were Edward's brother name and title?

- What was his personality like?

- Who was he married to?

- Which historical event happened when he was king?

4. Answer the questions in French and give keywords from the text:

- George était-il estimé par ses sujets?

- Que devait-il faire pendant la guerre ?

5. List and classify the words in italics in the text. What can you say about them?