

Our portrait gallery/ TI3/ CE niveau B1+

Name	
Date of birth	
Place of birth	
Nationality	
Occupation	
Hobbies	
Family and childhood	
Activity during World War II	
Marriage	
Children	
Evolution of monarchy	

Queen Elizabeth II (1926–)

Synopsis

Queen Elizabeth II was born on April 21, 1926, in London. She married Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh in 1947, became queen on February 6, 1952, and was crowned on June 2, 1953. During her reign, she has tried to make the British monarchy more modern and sensitive to the public.

Early Life

Elizabeth and her younger sister Margaret were educated at home by tutors. Their studies included French, mathematics, history and geography. They also took dancing, singing and art lessons.

In 1945, Elizabeth joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service to help in the war effort. She trained side-by-side with other British women to be an expert driver and mechanic.

Marriage and Accession

Elizabeth first met Philip Mountbatten, son of Prince Andrew of Greece, when she was only 13 and was smitten (*amoureuse*) with him from the start.

The ceremony was held at London's Westminster Abbey on November 20 1947. The couple wasted no time in producing a heir. Son Charles was born the following year and daughter Anne arrived in 1950.

On February 6, 1952, King George VI died, and Elizabeth assumed the responsibilities of the ruling monarch.

In her new role, Queen Elizabeth II had new political duties. She held weekly meetings with the country's prime minister, starting with Winston Churchill and every leader after him. As head of the Commonwealth, Elizabeth II traveled extensively. She also made visits to other countries as a representative of Britain.

Later Years

Elizabeth has modernized the monarchy as well. She had dropped some of its formalities and made some of sites and treasures more accessible to the public.

Now in her eighties, she celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 2013.

Personal Life

Not one for the spotlight, Elizabeth likes to spend her free time on quiet pastimes. She likes to read mysteries, work on crossword puzzles and even to watch wrestling on television.

For much of her life, Elizabeth has surrounded herself with dogs. Also a horse enthusiast, Elizabeth breeds thoroughbreds and attends several racing events each year.

<http://www.biography.com/people/queen-elizabeth-ii-9286165#awesm=~oB3fzxbUHHFrvh>