

59 Royal Flash Cards

MONARCHS
OF ENGLAND

Daniel Chalke

The Monarchs of England

1. King Æthelstan
2. King Edmund I
3. King Eadred
4. King Eadwig
5. King Edgar I
6. St. Edward
the Martyr
7. King Æthelred II
8. King Sweyn
Forkbeard
9. King Edmund II
10. King Cnut
11. King Harold I
12. King Harthacnut
13. St. Edward
the Confessor
14. King Harold II
15. King Edgar II
16. King William I
17. King William II
18. King Henry I
19. King Stephen
20. Empress Matilda
21. King Henry II
22. King Richard I
23. King John
24. King Henry III
25. King Edward I
26. King Edward II
27. King Edward III
28. King Richard II
29. King Henry IV
30. King Henry V
31. King Henry VI
32. King Edward IV
33. King Edward V
34. King Richard III
35. King Henry VII
36. King Henry VIII
37. King Edward VI
38. Lady Jane Grey
39. Queen Mary I
40. King Philip II
of Spain
41. Queen Elizabeth I
42. King James I
43. King Charles I
44. King Charles II
45. King James II
46. Queen Mary II
47. King William III
48. Queen Anne
49. George I
50. George II
51. George III
52. George IV
53. King William IV
54. Queen Victoria
55. King Edward VII
56. George V
57. King Edward VIII
58. King George VI
59. Queen Elizabeth II



• King Æthelstan •

King Æthelstan

Reign (and length):
September 4, 925–
October 27, 939 (14)

Coronation: September
4, 925 (Anglo-Saxon)

Predecessor: N/A

Successor: Edmund I
(half-brother)

House: Wessex

Father: Edward, King
of Wessex

Mother: Ecgwynn

Spouse(s): N/A

Date of Birth: 895

Died (age): October 27,
939 (43/44)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Æthelstan, King of the Anglo-Saxons, became the first king of all England in 927. He consolidated his rule with victory over the Scots and Norse-Gaels (Irish) at the Battle of Brunanburh. He was both politically savvy and pious, centralizing government and founding numerous churches.



• King Edmund I •

King Edmund I

Reign (and length):

October 27, 939–May
26, 946 (6)

Coronation:

November 29, 939

Predecessor:

Æthelstan (half-brother)

Successor:

Eadred (brother)

House: Wessex

Father: Edward, King
of Wessex

Mother: Eadgifu of Kent

Spouse(s): Ælfgifu of
Shaftesbury & Æthelflæd
of Damerham

Date of Birth: 921

Died (age): May 26,
946 (24/25)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Edmund succeeded his brother as king but struggled to maintain control of the whole kingdom. He was tragically murdered by an exiled thief, Leofa, and was succeeded by a third brother, Eadred. Edmund's sons, Eadwig and Edgar, went on to reign, both jointly and separately, as kings of England.



• King Eadred •

King Eadred

Reign (and length):

May 26, 946–November 23, 955 (9)

Coronation:

August 16, 946

Predecessor:

Edmund I (brother)

Successor:

Eadwig (nephew)

House: Wessex

Father: Edward, King of Wessex

Mother: Eadgifu of Kent

Spouse(s): N/A

Date of Birth: 923

Died (age): November 23, 955 (31/32)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Eadred succeeded his brother to the throne. During his reign, Eadred battled to gain control of Northumbria from Erik Bloodaxe, an ousted Norwegian king who had fled to Britain. Final victory came shortly before Eadred's premature death due to a digestive illness.



• King Eadwig •

King Eadwig

Reign (and length):

November 23, 955–
October 1, 959 (3)

Coronation: 955/956

Predecessor:

Eadred (uncle)

Successor:

Edgar I (brother)

House: Wessex

Father: Edmund I

Mother: Ælfgifu of
Shaftesbury

Spouse(s): Ælfgifu

Date of Birth:

941 (approx.)

Died (age):

October 1, 959 (18)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Eadwig went missing during his coronation and was found cavorting with Ælfgifu. Their subsequent marriage was annulled, most likely in an attempt to limit his political influence. In 957, to prevent civil war, England was divided along the Thames. Eadwig kept the south and his brother, Edgar, ruled the north.



• King Edgar I •

King Edgar I

Reign (and length):

October 1, 959–July 8,
975 (15)

Coronation: 973

Predecessor:

Eadwig (brother)

Successor: Edward
the Martyr (son)

House: Wessex

Father: Edmund I

Mother: Ælfgifu of
Shaftesbury

Spouse(s): Æthelflæd,
Wulthryth & Ælfthryth

Date of Birth: 943/944

Died (age): July 8, 975
(31/32)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Following the death of his brother in 959, Edgar “the Peaceful” reunited a divided kingdom. He elected to be coronated at the end of his reign, and his wife Ælfthryth was the first consort to be crowned Queen of England. He supported monastic reforms and was buried at Glastonbury Abbey.



• St. Edward the Martyr •

St. Edward the Martyr

Reign (and length):
July 8, 975–March 18,
978 (2)

Coronation: 975

Predecessor: Edgar I
(father)

Successor: Æthelred II
(half-brother)

House: Wessex

Father: Edgar I

Mother: Æthelflæd
or Wulfthryth

Spouse(s): N/A

Date of Birth: 962

Died (age): March 18,
978 (15/16)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Edward and his younger half-brother, Æthelred, contested the throne after the death of their father. Though Edward took the crown, he was unable to unify the country and was eventually brutally murdered at Corfe Castle. Æthelred and his supporters were suspected of complicity.



• King Æthelred II •

King Æthelred II

Reign (and length):

March 18, 978–1013
(35) & 1014–April 23,
1016 (2)

Coronation: April 978**Predecessor:**

Edward the Martyr (978)
(half-brother) & Sweyn
Forkbeard (1014)
(unrelated)

Successors: Sweyn Fork-
beard (1013) (unrelated)
& Edmund II (1016) (son)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Æthelred paid tributes to Danish invaders in order to secure peace, but in 1002 massacred many Danish settlers, including the sister of Sweyn Forkbeard, King of Denmark. Sweyn invaded and Æthelred fled to Normandy, though he quickly returned in 1014 to reclaim the throne following Sweyn's death.

House: Wessex

Father: Edgar I

Mother: Ælfthryth

Spouse(s): Ælfgifu
of York & Emma of
Normandy

Date of Birth: 966–968

Died (age): April 23,
1016 (47–49)



• King Sweyn Forkbeard •

King Sweyn Forkbeard

Reign (and length):

1013–February 3,
1014 (0)

Coronation:

December 25, 1013

Predecessor:

Æthelred (unrelated)

Successor:

Æthelred (unrelated)

House: Denmark

Father:

Harald Gormsson

Mother: Gyrid

Spouse(s): Gunhilda

Date of Birth: 960

Died (age): February 3,
1014 (53/54)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Sweyn Forkbeard became King of Norway and Denmark when he exiled his father. He raided England numerous times in the first decade of the 11th century and made a full-scale invasion in 1013 but died shortly after his eventual victory. He was the first Viking to be named King of England.



• King Edmund II •

King Edmund II

Reign (and length): April 23, 1016–November 30, 1016 (0)

Coronation: N/A

Predecessor:
Æthelred II (father)

Successor:
Cnut (unrelated)

House: Wessex

Father: Æthelred II

Mother: Ælfgifu of Wessex

Spouse(s): Ealdgyth

Date of Birth: 989

Died (age): November 30, 1016 (26/27)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Edmund's reign was short and violent. He inherited the throne from his father as Cnut laid siege to London. Edmund managed to raise several armies but was ultimately unable to resist Cnut's 10,000 warriors. Edmund's sons, Edward and Edmund, were exiled to Sweden.



• King Cnut •

King Cnut

Reign (and length):

November 30, 1016–
November 2, 1035 (18)

Coronation:

January 6, 1017

Predecessor: Edmund II
(unrelated)

Successor: Harold I
(son)

House: Denmark

Father:

Sweyn Forkbeard

Mother: Gunhilda

Spouse(s): Emma of
Normandy & Elfigfu of
Northampton

Date of Birth: 995

Died (age): November
12, 1035 (39/40)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Famous for attempting to hold back the sea, Cnut had more success conquering England—a feat his father had achieved before him. He inherited sole rule after the death of Edmund and quickly adopted the role of king. He disposed of any nobility who might have challenged his authority.



• King Harold I •

King Harold I

Reign (and length):
November 2, 1035–
March 17, 1040 (4)

Coronation: 1037

Predecessor:
Cnut (father)

Successor: Harthacnut
(half-brother)

House: Denmark

Father: Cnut

Mother: Ælfgifu of
Northampton

Spouse(s): Ælfgifu
(disputed)

Date of Birth:
January 1016

Died (age): March 17,
1040 (24)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Harold inherited the throne when his brother, the preferred heir, Harthacnut, was away in Denmark. He was rejected by Æthelnoth, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and struggled for absolute power. He died just as his brother was preparing to invade England to claim his inheritance.



• King Harthacnut •

King Harthacnut

Reign (and length):

March 17, 1040–June 8, 1042 (2)

Coronation: June 1040

Predecessor: Harold I (half-brother)

Successor: Edward the Confessor (half-brother)

House: Denmark

Father: Cnut

Mother: Emma of Normandy

Spouse(s): N/A

Date of Birth: 1018

Died (age): June 8, 1042 (23/24)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Harthacnut exhumed and beheaded his brother, Harold, for the harsh treatment of their stepbrother, Ælfred, whom Harold had blinded and exiled. Harthacnut ruled autocratically and increased taxes that coincided with poor harvests, leading to civil unrest. He died after drinking to the health of a bride.



• St. Edward the Confessor •

St. Edward the Confessor

Reign (and length):

June 8, 1042–January 5,
1066 (25)

Coronation:

April 3, 1043

Predecessor:

Harthacnut
(half-brother)

Successor: Harold II
(unrelated)

House: Wessex

Father: Æthelred II

Mother:

Emma of Normandy

Spouse(s):

Edith of Wessex

Date of Birth: 1003

Died (age): January 5,
1066 (62/63)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Edward returned from exile imposed by the Danish invaders and became king when his younger brother, Harthacnut, died. He struggled for power against Godwin, Earl of Wessex, who had been close to Cnut and whose daughter he married. Edward was one of England's national saints until St. George was made the Patron Saint in 1348.



• King Harold II •

King Harold II

Reign (and length):

January 5, 1066–
October 14, 1066 (0)

Coronation:

January 6, 1066

Predecessor:

Edward the Confessor
(unrelated)

Successor: Edgar II

(unrelated)

House: Godwin

Father: Godwin,
Earl of Wessex

Mother:

Gytha Thorkelsdóttir

Spouse(s):

Edith Swanneck &
Edith of Mercia

Date of Birth: 1022**Died (age):**

October 14, 1066
(43/44)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

A powerful earl, Harold Godwinson was named Edward's successor and became the last Anglo-Saxon king of England. He defeated his brother Tostig at the Battle of Stamford Bridge but was killed just days later at the Battle of Hastings, where William of Normandy mounted a huge invasion.



• King Edgar II •

King Edgar II

Reign (and length):

October 15, 1066–
December 10, 1066 (0)

Coronation: N/A

Predecessor: Harold II
(unrelated)

Successor: William I
(unrelated)

House: Wessex

Father: Edward, son
of Edmund II

Mother: Agatha
of Bulgaria

Spouse(s): Unknown

Date of Birth: 1051

Died (age): 1126 (74/75)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Born in exile, Edgar was the grandson of the deposed king Edmund II. Edgar was one of four kings to rule England in 1066. He was pronounced king following the death of Harold II, but his support fell away when William I arrived in London. He was unable to regain control of the throne.



• King William I •

King William I

Reign (and length):

December 25, 1066–
September 9, 1087 (20)

Coronation:

December 25, 1066

Predecessor:

Edgar II (unrelated)

Successor:

William II (son)

House: Norman

Father: Robert I, Duke
of Normandy

Mother: Herleva of
Falaise

Spouse(s): Matilda
of Flanders

Date of Birth: 1027/28

Died (age): September
9, 1087 (58–60)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

William the Conqueror was the first Norman king of England. He defeated Harold II at Hastings shortly after his cousin Edward the Confessor died. He built many castles (including the Tower of London), ordered the compilation of the Domesday Book, and founded the New Forest as a royal hunting ground.



• King William II •

King William II

Reign (and length):
September 9, 1087–
August 2, 1100 (12)

Coronation:
September 26, 1087

Predecessor: William I
(father)

Successor: Henry I
(brother)

House: Norman

Father: William I

Mother: Matilda of
Flanders

Spouse(s): N/A

Date of Birth: 1056

Died (age): August 2,
1100 (43/44)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

William I's eldest son, Robert Curthose, inherited Normandy, leaving England to the younger William "Rufus." During his reign, William II introduced heavy taxes and chased Archbishop Anselm into exile. The Rufus Stone in the New Forest marks the spot where he was fatally shot through a lung while on a hunt.

HENRCVS

13



• King Henry I •

King Henry I

Reign (and length):

August 2, 1100–

December 1, 1135 (35)

Coronation:

August 5, 1100

Predecessor: William II

(brother)

Successor: Stephen

(nephew)

House: Norman

Father: William I

Mother: Matilda of
Flanders

Spouse(s): Matilda of
Scotland & Adeliza of
Louvain

Date of Birth: 1068

Died (age): December 1,
1135 (66/67)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Henry seized the throne when his brother William II died. He developed the royal justice system with itinerant justices and introduced the Exchequer. After his son and only legitimate heir, William Adelin, prematurely died at sea, Henry named his daughter, Matilda, heir, sparking a succession crisis.

STEPHANVS

REX



• King Stephen •

King Stephen

Reign (and length):

December 22, 1135–
October 25, 1154 (18)
(break in 1141)

Coronations: December
26, 1135 & December
25, 1141

Predecessor: Henry I
(uncle)

Successors: Matilda
(1141) (cousin) & Henry
II (first cousin once
removed)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Stephen stole the throne from his cousin Matilda, whom he then fought in "the Anarchy," a brutal civil war. He depleted the treasury to buy loyalties and was deposed, but he was later reinstated by the Church. "The Anarchy" ended when Stephen took Matilda's son Henry as his adopted son and heir.

House: Blois

Father: Stephen II,
Count of Blois

Mother: Adela of
Normandy

Spouse(s): Matilda,
Countess of Boulogne

Date of Birth: 1092

Died (age): October 25,
1154 (61/62)



• Empress Matilda •

Empress Matilda

Reign (and length):

April 7, 1141–

November 1, 1141 (0)

Coronation: N/A

Predecessor:

Stephen (cousin)

Successor:

Stephen (cousin)

House: Norman

Father: Henry I

Mother: Matilda

of Scotland

Spouse(s): Henry V,
Holy Roman Emperor
& Geoffrey V, Count
of Anjou

Date of Birth:

February 7, 1102

Died (age): September
10, 1167 (65)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Matilda was named as her father's heir, but her cousin Stephen beat her to England and stole the throne. The ensuing civil war is remembered as "the Anarchy," during which, in 1141, Matilda briefly took the throne. However, her hubris saw her fail, and Stephen was reinstated later that same year.



• King Henry II •

King Henry II

Reign (and length):

October 25, 1154–July 6, 1189 (34)

Coronation:

December 19, 1154

Predecessor: Stephen
(first cousin once removed)

Successor:

Richard I (son)

House: Plantagenet

Father: Geoffrey V,
Count of Anjou

Mother:

Empress Matilda

Spouse(s):

Eleanor of Aquitaine

Date of Birth:

March 5, 1133

Died (age):

July 6, 1189 (56)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Henry was suspicious and unyielding of power. He established a vast kingdom and appointed his closest friend, Thomas Becket, as Archbishop of Canterbury in order to wrestle power from the Church. Becket's surprising loyalty to the Church would cost him his life. Henry spent his last days at war with his sons.



• King Richard I •

King Richard I

Reign (and length): July 6, 1189–April 6, 1199 (9)

Coronation:
September 3, 1189

Predecessor:
Henry II (father)

Successor:
John (brother)

House: Plantagenet

Father: Henry II

Mother: Eleanor of Aquitaine

Spouse(s):
Berengaria of Navarre

Date of Birth:
September 8, 1157

Died (age):
April 6, 1199 (41)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Richard the Lionheart earned his reputation as a skilled warrior during the Crusades. Greedy for power, he declared war against his father and older brother. He was popular despite raising taxes and spending little time in England. He magnanimously pardoned the boy who inflicted his fatal wounds.

JOHANNES REX:



• King John •

King John

Reign (and length):

April 6, 1199–October 19, 1216 (17)

Coronation:

May 27, 1199

Predecessor:

Richard I (brother)

Successor:

Henry III (son)

House: Plantagenet

Father: Henry II

Mother: Eleanor of Aquitaine

Spouse(s): Isabel, Countess of Gloucester & Isabella of Angoulême

Date of Birth:

December 24, 1166

Died (age): October 19, 1216 (49)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

The notorious “Bad” King John imposed crushing taxes to finance his unsuccessful wars in France. He lost the trust and support of his barons, who forced him to sign the Magna Carta (Great Charter) in 1215. It limited royal power but was not enough to secure peace or prevent the First Barons’ War.



• King Henry III •

King Henry III

Reign (and length):

October 19, 1216–
November 16, 1272 (56)

Coronations: October
28, 1216 & May 17, 1220

Predecessor: John
(father)

Successor: Edward I
(son)

House: Plantagenet

Father: John Lackland

Mother: Isabella of
Angoulême

Spouse(s): Eleanor
of Provence

Date of Birth: October
1, 1207

Died (age): November
16, 1272 (65)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Henry was just nine when he became king during the First Barons' War. Taxes and failed military campaigns ensured the crown remained unpopular. During the Second Barons' War he was pitted against his brother-in-law, Simon de Montfort, who insisted on a greater commitment to a redrafted Magna Carta.

*Cantabrigia, Magistro, Socijq;
ejusdem Coll:
Tabulam Hanc EDWARDI
Principis Nigri Cognomi-
nati Oratitudinis. Et
Hic in re. anno. DCCC.
Jo sua hinc.*



• King Edward I •

King Edward I

Reign (and length):

November 16, 1272–
July 7, 1307 (34)

Coronation:

August 19, 1274

Predecessor: Henry III
(father)

Successor: Edward II
(son)

House: Plantagenet

Father: Henry III

Mother: Eleanor of
Provence

Spouse(s): Eleanor
of Castile & Margaret
of France

Date of Birth:
June 18, 1239

Died (age):
July 7, 1307 (68)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Known as Longshanks, King Edward I was a huge man and a warrior king. He fought in the Crusades and began the tradition of calling the royal heir “Prince(ss) of Wales” after victory there. He took the sacred Stone of Scone from the Scottish (still used in coronations today) and is remembered for defeating William Wallace.

EDVARDVS R



• King Edward II •

King Edward II

Reign (and length):

July 7, 1307–January 25,
1327 (19)

Father: Edward I

Mother: Eleanor of
Castile

Coronation:

February 25, 1308

Spouse(s): Isabella
of France

Predecessor:

Edward I (father)

Date of Birth:

April 25, 1284

Successor:

Edward III (son)

Died (age): September
21, 1327 (43)

House: Plantagenet

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Edward famously fell in love with his squire, Gaveston, and lost the Battle of Bannockburn to Robert the Bruce's army. The barons murdered Gaveston and tethered Edward, who was eventually deposed by his wife and her lover, Roger Mortimer. Edward was later murdered with a red-hot poker in Berkeley Castle.

EDWARDVS

III.



• King Edward III •

King Edward III

Reign (and length):

January 25, 1327–June 21, 1377 (50)

Coronation:

February 1, 1327

Predecessor: Edward II (father)

Successor: Richard II (grandson)

House: Plantagenet

Father: Edward II

Mother: Isabella of France

Spouse(s): Philippa of Hainault

Date of Birth: November 13, 1312

Died (age): June 21, 1377 (64)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Edward was 14 years old when he became king but was hidden away and manipulated by his mother and her lover, Roger Mortimer. Edward escaped when he was 17 and became a great military leader, winning famous battles against the French in what is remembered as the Hundred Years' War.



• King Richard II •

King Richard II

Reign (and length): June 21, 1377–September 30, 1399 (22)

Coronation:
July 16, 1377

Predecessor: Edward III
(grandfather)

Successor: Henry IV
(cousin)

House: Plantagenet

Father: Edward, the Black Prince

Mother: Joan of Kent

Spouse(s): Anna of Bohemia & Isabella of Valois

Date of Birth:
January 6, 1367

Died (age):
February 14, 1400 (33)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Richard dealt harshly with the Peasants' Revolt, causing further tension between the rebels and the king. However, it was his struggle with the government and harsh treatment of his cousin Henry Bolingbroke that was his undoing. Henry returned with an army to depose Richard, who was imprisoned and later died in Pontefract Castle.

HENRICVS

III



King Henry IV

King Henry IV

Reign (and length):
September 30, 1399–
March 20, 1413 (13)

Coronation:
October 13, 1399

Predecessor: Richard II
(cousin)

Successor:
Henry V (son)

House: Lancaster

Father: John of Gaunt,
1st Duke of Lancaster

Mother: Blanche of
Lancaster

Spouse(s): Mary de Bo-
hun & Joan of Navarre

Date of Birth: April 15,
1367

Died (age): March 20,
1413 (45)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Henry was disinherited by his cousin, King Richard II. However, Henry raised a force and took both his inheritance and the throne. His reign was marked by numerous rebellions and attempts to depose him, many with the supposed backing of Richard II, whose death had not been made public.



• King Henry V •

King Henry V

Reign (and length):

March 21, 1413–August, 31, 1422 (9)

Coronation:

April 9, 1413

Predecessor:

Henry IV (father)

Successor:

Henry VI (son)

House: Lancaster

Father: Henry IV

Mother: Mary de Bohun

Spouse(s): Catherine of Valois

Date of Birth:

September 16, 1386

Died (age):

August 31, 1422 (35)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Henry continued the Hundred Years' War and famously won the Battle of Agincourt, where the English were vastly outnumbered against a mighty French army. Henry was named heir to the French throne and made English, rather than French or Latin, the official language of England's government.



• King Henry VI •

King Henry VI

Reign (and length):

August 31, 1422–
March 4, 1461 (38) &
October 30, 1470–
April 11, 1471 (0)

Coronation:

November 6, 1429

Predecessors: Henry V
(father) & Edward IV
(third cousin)

Successor: Edward IV
(third cousin)

House: Lancaster

Father: Henry V

Mother: Catherine
of Valois

Spouse(s): Margaret
of Anjou

Date of Birth:
December 6, 1421

Died (age):
May 21, 1471 (49)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Henry became king at just nine months old. He lost territories to the French in the Hundred Years' War and, in poor health, passed many responsibilities to his wife. His perceived weak leadership was a trigger for the Wars of the Roses. Henry was twice deposed by Edward IV and died in the Tower of London.

EDWARDVS .

IIII



King Edward IV

King Edward IV

Reign (and length):

March 4, 1461–October 3, 1470 (9) & April 11, 1471–April 9, 1483 (11)

Coronation:

June 28, 1461

Predecessor: Henry VI
(third cousin)

Successor:

Henry VI (third cousin)
& Edward V (son)

House: York

Father: Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York

Mother: Cecily Neville, Duchess of York

Spouse(s): Elizabeth Woodville

Date of Birth:
April 28, 1442

Died (age):
April 9, 1483 (40)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Edward took his father's place in the Wars of the Roses. His reign was interrupted when he was forced to flee in 1470 after Richard Neville, 16th Earl of Warwick, who had helped Edward win the throne, changed his allegiance. Edward regained control in 1471. Though an able king, his legacy was not to last.



• King Edward V •

King Edward V

Reign (and length):

April 9, 1483–June 26,
1483 (0)

Mother: Elizabeth
Woodville

Spouse(s): N/A

Coronation: N/A

Date of Birth:
November 2, 1470

Predecessor: Edward IV
(father)

Died (age): Unknown

Successor: Richard III
(uncle)

House: York

Father: Edward IV

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Following the death of their father, Edward IV, Edward V and his brother Richard were declared illegitimate by their uncle Richard III. Edward ruled for just two months before being sent to the Tower of London with his brother. What happened to the brothers remains a mystery.

RICARDVS · III · ANG · REX ·



· King Richard III ·

King Richard III

Reign (and length):

June 26, 1483–August 22, 1485 (2)

Coronation:

July 6, 1483

Predecessor: Edward V
(nephew)

Successor: Henry VII
(distant cousin)

House: York

Father:

Richard Plantagenet,
Duke of York

Mother: Cecily Neville,
Duchess of York

Spouse(s): Anne Neville

Date of Birth: October 2, 1452

Died (age): August 22, 1485 (32)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Richard became Lord Protector of the Realm for his young nephew Edward V after his brother Edward IV died. Richard quickly had his nephew declared illegitimate and stole the throne. However, his reign was short lived; Richard was killed at the Battle of Bosworth, marking the end of the Wars of the Roses.

HENRICVS,

VII



• King Henry VII •

King Henry VII

Reign (and length):

August 22, 1485–April 21, 1509 (23)

Coronation:

October 30, 1485

Predecessor: Richard III
(distant cousin)

Successor: Henry VIII
(son)

House: Tudor

Father: Edmund Tudor,
1st Earl of Richmond

Mother: Lady Margaret
Beaufort

Spouse(s): Elizabeth of
York

Date of Birth:
January 28, 1457

Died (age):
April 21, 1509 (52)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Henry was the eventual victor in the Wars of the Roses and the last king to win the crown in battle. He banned baronial armies and married Elizabeth of York to consolidate his victory. His eldest son and heir, Arthur, died soon after marrying Catherine of Aragon. Bride and country passed to Arthur's brother.



HENRICVS

OCTAVVS

• King Henry VIII •

King Henry VIII

Reign (and length):

April 21, 1509–January
28, 1547 (37)

Coronation:

June 24, 1509

Predecessor:

Henry VII (father)

Successor:

Edward VI (son)

House: Tudor

Father: Henry VII

Mother: Elizabeth of York

Spouse(s): Catherine of

Aragon, Anne Boleyn,

Jane Seymour, Anne of

Cleves, Catherine

Howard & Catherine Parr

Date of Birth:

June 28, 1491

Died (age):

January 28, 1547 (55)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Henry was intelligent and charismatic. His quest for a male heir to help secure the Tudor dynasty led to his many wives and the formation of the Church of England, established so he could secure an annulment from Catherine of Aragon. He commissioned the "Great Bible," the first in English, and funded his extreme extravagance with spoils from the Dissolution of the Monasteries.



• King Edward VI •

King Edward VI

Reign (and length):

January 28, 1547–July 6, 1553 (6)

Coronation:

February 20, 1547

Predecessor:

Henry VIII (Father)

Successor: Lady Jane Grey (first cousin once removed)

House: Tudor

Father: Henry VIII

Mother: Jane Seymour

Spouse(s): N/A

Date of Birth:

October 12, 1537

Died (age):

July 6, 1553 (15)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Edward was only nine years old when he became king. It was under his rule that the Church of England became distinctively Protestant, and when his illness was diagnosed as terminal, he gave instruction that his Protestant cousin, Jane, should succeed him ahead of his sisters.



• Lady Jane Grey •

Lady Jane Grey

Reign (and length):
July 10, 1553–July 19,
1553 (0)

Coronation: N/A

Predecessor: Edward
VI (first cousin once
removed)

Successor: Mary I (first
cousin once removed)

House: Tudor

Father: Henry Grey, 1st
Duke of Suffolk

Mother: Lady Frances
Brandon

Spouse(s): Lord
Guildford Dudley

Date of Birth: October
15, 1537

Died (age): February 12,
1554 (16)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

The “Nine Days’ Queen,” Lady Jane Grey was named by Edward VI as his Protestant successor. The Privy Council switched their support to the more powerful (and Catholic) Mary, who had Jane imprisoned and tried for treason. Jane, along with her husband and, later, her father, was beheaded in the Tower of London.



• Queen Mary I •

Queen Mary I

Reign (and length):

July 19, 1553–
November 17, 1558 (5)

Coronation:

October 1, 1553

Predecessor: Lady Jane Grey (first cousin once removed)

Successor: Elizabeth I (half-sister)

House: Tudor

Father: Henry VIII

Mother: Catherine of Aragon

Spouse(s): Philip II of Spain (co-monarch)

Date of Birth: February 18, 1516

Died (age): November 17, 1558 (42)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Known as Bloody Mary, she restored Roman Catholicism and had close to 300 Protestants burned at the stake. She deposed Lady Jane Grey as queen and had her own half-sister, Elizabeth I, imprisoned in the Tower of London. Mary was the first queen to maintain control of the throne.



• King Philip II of Spain •

King Philip II of Spain

Reign (and length):

July 25, 1554–

November 17, 1558 (4)

Coronation:

October 1, 1553

Predecessor:

Mary I (wife)

Successor: Elizabeth I

(sister-in-law)

House: Habsburg

Father: Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor

Mother: Isabella of Portugal

Spouse(s):

Mary I (co-monarch)

Date of Birth:

May 21, 1527

Died (age): September 13, 1598 (71)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Philip's marriage to Mary was political and came just two days after they first met. After Mary's death, Philip was reluctant to lose control of England. In an attempt to reestablish power he sent the new queen, Elizabeth, a marriage proposal—and then, when that failed, the famous Spanish Armada.



• Queen Elizabeth I •

Queen Elizabeth I

Reign (and length):

November 17, 1558–
March 24, 1603 (44)

Coronation:

January 15, 1559

Predecessors: Mary I
(half-sister) & Philip II of
Spain (brother-in-law)

Successor: James I (first
cousin twice removed)

House: Tudor

Father: Henry VIII

Mother: Anne Boleyn

Spouse(s): N/A

Date of Birth:

September 7, 1533

Died (age):

March 24, 1603 (69)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Before inheriting the throne, Elizabeth was imprisoned by her Catholic half-sister, Mary I. The “Virgin Queen” reestablished the Protestant Church of England and defeated the Spanish Armada sent by her brother-in-law, Philip II. She was fluent in six languages. Elizabeth’s reign is remembered as a golden age for England.



• King James I •

King James I

Reign (and length):

March 24, 1603–March 27, 1625 (22)

Coronation:

July 25, 1603

Predecessor:

Elizabeth I (first cousin twice removed)

Successor:

Charles I (son)

House: Stuart

Father: Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley

Mother: Mary, Queen of Scots

Spouse(s): Anne of Denmark

Date of Birth:
June 19, 1566

Died (age):
March 27, 1625 (58)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Already King of Scotland, James inherited the English throne by virtue of being Elizabeth's closest eligible relative. He worked to establish a new country, Great Britain; sponsored a new translation of the Bible, the King James Version; and survived the Gunpowder Plot, a plan to blow up the House of Lords during a state visit. Colonization of North America began with the foundation of Jamestown.



• King Charles I •

King Charles I

Reign (and length):

March 27, 1625–January
30, 1649 (23)

Coronation:

February 2, 1626

Predecessor:

James I (father)

Successor:

Charles II (son)

House: Stuart

Father: James I

Mother:

Anne of Denmark

Spouse(s): Henrietta
Maria of France

Date of Birth:

November 19, 1600

Died (age):

January 30, 1649 (48)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

The Church and government were riled by Charles's Catholic-like behavior. The King's Cavaliers, his Royalist supporters, lost the ensuing English Civil War against the Parliamentary Roundheads led by Oliver Cromwell, who captured and beheaded Charles. Cromwell became Lord Protector during England's brief spell as a republic.



• King Charles II •

King Charles II

Reign (and length):

May 29, 1660–February 6, 1685 (24)

Coronation:

April 23, 1661

Predecessor:

Charles I (father)

Successor:

James II (brother)

House: Stuart

Father: Charles I

Mother: Henrietta
Maria of France

Spouse(s): Catherine
of Braganza

Date of Birth:
May 29, 1630

Died (age):
February 6, 1685 (54)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Charles fled to Europe after his father was captured and executed but returned to restore the monarchy following the death of Oliver Cromwell. During his reign, Charles II faced the Great Plague (1665) and the Fire of London (1666), and controversially converted to Catholicism on his deathbed.



• King James II •

King James II

Reign (and length):

February 6, 1685–
December 11, 1688 (3)

Coronation:

April 23, 1685

Predecessor:

Charles II (brother)

Successors: Mary II
(daughter) & William III
(son-in-law)

House: Stuart

Father: Charles I

Mother: Henrietta
Maria of France

Spouse(s): Mary of
Modena & Anne Hyde

Date of Birth:

October 14, 1633

Died (age): September
16, 1701 (67)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

James encouraged greater religious tolerance through granting high offices to Catholics. Less tolerant, disenfranchised, and disgruntled Protestants invited James's daughter Mary and her husband, William of Orange, to intervene. James fled William's forces and died in exile in France.



• Queen Mary II •

Queen Mary II

Reign (and length):

February 13, 1689–

December 28, 1694 (5)

Coronation:

April 11, 1689

Predecessor:

James II (father)

Successor:

William III (husband)

House: Stuart

Father: James II

Mother: Lady Anne
Hyde

Spouse(s): William III
(co-monarch)

Date of Birth:
April 30, 1662

Died (age): December
28, 1694 (32)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Mary and William returned from the Netherlands when the "Immortal Seven," a group of disgruntled Protestant politicians, requested that they invade and depose the Catholic king, Mary's father, James II. Mary deferred much power to her husband, but in his absence proved to be a capable leader.



• King William III •

King William III

Reign (and length):
February 13, 1689–
March 8, 1702 (13)

Coronation:
April 11, 1689

Predecessor: James II
(father-in-law & uncle)

Successor: Anne (sister-
in-law & cousin)

House: Orange-Nassau

Father: William II, Prince
of Orange

Mother: Mary, Princess
Royal

Spouse(s): Mary II of
England (co-monarch)

Date of Birth:
November 14, 1650

Died (age):
March 19, 1702 (51)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

William of Orange was invited to overthrow the Catholic king James II in what became known as the "Glorious Revolution," a significant move towards parliamentary rule. The Bill of Rights passed during his reign, instituting restrictions on the royal prerogative. The Bank of England was established to finance his wars in France. William remains a Protestant hero.



• Queen Anne •

Queen Anne

Reign (and length):

March 8, 1702–August
1, 1714 (12)

Coronation:

April 23, 1702

Predecessor: William III
(brother-in-law & cousin)

Successor: George I
(second cousin)

House: Stuart

Father: James II

Mother: Anne Hyde

Spouse(s): Prince
George of Denmark

Date of Birth: February
6, 1665

Died (age): August 1,
1714 (49)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Anne sided with her Dutch Protestant brother-in-law, William III of Orange, when he invaded her father's kingdom. She was afflicted with severe gout and had to be carried to her coronation. She tragically endured at least 12 miscarriages or stillbirths, and her eldest child lived to be only 11 years old.



• George I •

George I

Reign (and length):

August 1, 1714–June
11, 1727 (12)

Coronation:

October 20, 1714

Predecessor: Anne
(second cousin)

Successor: George II
(son)

House: Hanover

Father: Ernst Augustus
of Brunswick

Mother: Sophia,
Electress of Hanover

Spouse(s): Sophia
Dorothea of Celle

Date of Birth:
May 28, 1660

Died (age):
June 11, 1727 (67)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

George, a German prince, was Anne's closest Protestant relative and so inherited the throne in accordance with the Act of Settlement (1701). In 1721, Sir Robert Walpole became England's first prime minister, diminishing royal power and responsibility. George spent much of his time in Hanover, Germany.



• George II •

George II

Reign (and length):

June 11, 1727–October
25, 1760 (33)

Coronation:

October 22, 1727

Predecessor:

George I (father)

Successor:

George III (grandson)

House: Hanover

Father: George I

Mother: Sophia
Dorothea of Celle

Spouse(s): Caroline
of Ansbach

Date of Birth:

November 9, 1683

Died (age): October 25,
1760 (76)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

George was the last English monarch to have been born abroad or to lead an army in battle (Dettingen). His reign saw the Jacobite Rebellion (the Stuarts' attempt to regain the throne) and the outbreak of the Seven Years' War. He instructed that the sides of his and his wife's coffins should be removed so their remains could mingle.



• George III •

George III

Reign (and length):
October 25, 1760–
January 29, 1820 (59)

Coronation:
September 22, 1761

Predecessor:
George II (grandfather)

Successor:
George IV (son)

House: Hanover

Father: Frederick,
Prince of Wales

Mother: Augusta
of Saxe-Gotha

Spouse(s): Charlotte of
Mecklenburg-Strelitz

Date of Birth:
June 4, 1738

Died (age):
January 29, 1820 (81)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

George's reign saw the American Revolutionary War and the great battles of the Napoleonic Wars: Trafalgar and Waterloo. The planet Uranus was originally named "George's Star" in his honor, and he was the first of the Hanover kings to speak English as a first language. In later years, he struggled with poor mental health.



• George IV •

George IV

Reign (and length):

January 29, 1820–June 26, 1830 (10)

Coronation:

July 19, 1821

Predecessor:

George III (father)

Successor:

William IV (brother)

House: Hanover

Father: George III

Mother: Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz

Spouse(s): Caroline of Brunswick

Date of Birth:

August 12, 1762

Died (age):

June 26, 1830 (67)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

George commissioned the remodeling of Buckingham Palace and the rebuilding of Windsor Castle. He was also involved in founding both the National Gallery and King's College London. Known as the "first gentleman of England," he was actually unpopular, considered selfish, extravagant, and a weak leader.



• King William IV •

King William IV

Reign (and length):

June 26, 1830–June 20, 1837 (6)

Coronation:

September 8, 1831

Predecessor: George IV
(brother)

Successor: Victoria
(niece)

House: Hanover

Father: George III

Mother: Charlotte of
Mecklenburg-Strelitz

Spouse(s): Adelaide of
Saxe-Meiningen

Date of Birth:
August 21, 1765

Died (age):
June 20, 1837 (71)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

William's reign saw many reforms, including the 1832 Reform Act, which abolished "rotten boroughs"—boroughs with small electorates and dominated by a wealthy patron—and ensured the middle classes were better represented. He was survived by eight children, but none was legitimate, and so the throne passed to his niece Victoria.



• Queen Victoria •

Queen Victoria

Reign (and length):

June 20, 1837–January
22, 1901 (63)

Coronation:

June 28, 1838

Predecessor:

William IV (uncle)

Successor:

Edward VII (son)

House: Hanover

Father: Edward,
Duke of Kent

Mother: Victoria of
Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld

Spouse(s): Albert of
Saxe-Coburg and Gotha

Date of Birth:
May 24, 1819

Died (age):
January 22, 1901 (81)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Despite her popularity, numerous assassination attempts were made against Victoria. She was regarded as an example of morality and spent close to 40 years in mourning, wearing only black following the death of her husband and first cousin, Albert. During her reign, the British Empire, science, and industry all boomed.



• King Edward VII •

King Edward VII

Reign (and length):

January 22, 1901–May 6, 1910 (9)

Coronation:

August 9, 1902

Predecessor:

Victoria (mother)

Successor:

George V (son)

House: Saxe-Coburg
and Gotha

Father: Prince Albert

Mother: Victoria

Spouse(s): Alexandra of
Denmark

Date of Birth:

November 9, 1841

Died (age):

May 6, 1910 (68)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Edward, the “Uncle of Europe,” worked to improve deteriorating European relations and played key roles in foreign policy negotiations. He popularized unbuttoning the bottom of waistcoats and introduced the English Sunday staple, roast beef. During his last years he became embroiled in reforms to the House of Lords.



• George V •

George V

Reign (and length):
May 6, 1910–January
20, 1936 (25)

Coronation:
June 22, 1911

Predecessor:
Edward VII (father)

Successor:
Edward VIII (son)

House: Saxe-Coburg
and Gotha & Windsor

Father:
Edward VII

Mother:
Alexandra of Denmark

Spouse(s):
Mary of Teck

Date of Birth:
June 3, 1865

Died (age):
January 20, 1936 (70)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

George fought WWI against his cousin Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany and changed the family name to Windsor to distance German ties. He began the tradition of Christmas broadcasts made by the monarch and laid the foundation stone of New Delhi. The Parliament Act, asserting the supremacy of the House of Commons, passed in 1911.



• King Edward VIII •

King Edward VIII

Reign (and length):

January 20, 1936–

December 11, 1936 (0)

Coronation: N/A

Predecessor:

George V (father)

Successor:

George VI (brother)

House: Windsor

Father: George V

Mother: Mary of Teck

Spouse(s): Wallis,
Duchess of Windsor

Date of Birth:

June 23, 1894

Died (age):

May 28, 1972 (77)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Edward was a controversial character. He caused a constitutional crisis by proposing marriage to Wallis Simpson, a double divorcée, and notoriously visited Adolf Hitler. He was ordered to return to British territory by Winston Churchill and later retired to France. He abdicated the throne after just 326 days.



• King George VI •

King George VI

Reign (and length):

December 11, 1936–
February 6, 1952 (15)

Coronation:

May 12, 1937

Predecessor:

Edward VIII (brother)

Successor:

Elizabeth II (daughter)

House: Windsor

Father: George V

Mother: Mary of Teck

Spouse(s): Elizabeth
Bowes-Lyon

Date of Birth:

December 14, 1895

Died (age):

February 6, 1952 (56)

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Albert, or “Bertie,” took the regal name George to restore faith and continuity in the monarchy. During his reign the British Empire developed into the Commonwealth of Nations. Despite having a stammer, he spoke at the United Nations’s first assembly (1946) and made many radio broadcasts.



• Queen Elizabeth II •

Queen Elizabeth II

Reign (and length):

February 6, 1952–
present

Coronation:

June 2, 1953

Predecessor:

George VI (father)

Successor: Charles,
Prince of Wales (son,
Heir Apparent)

House: Windsor

Father: George VI

Mother: Elizabeth
Bowes-Lyon

Spouse(s): Prince Philip,
Duke of Edinburgh

Date of Birth:
April 21, 1926

Forget-Me-Not Fact:

Elizabeth is the most traveled and the longest reigning monarch in England's history. During World War II, at just 14 years of age, she made radio broadcasts to the nation and later trained as an expert driver and mechanic. She speaks French fluently and participates in extensive charity work.

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