

# A really royal palace

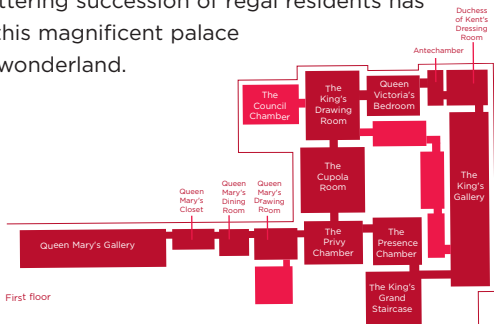
No wonder so many royals were nuts about Kensington Palace.

This is where they could do things that regal rulers really loved doing.



The royal family has adored Kensington Palace for centuries. From William, Mary and the Georges to Victoria, Margaret and Diana, a glittering succession of regal residents has helped to turn this magnificent palace into a majestic wonderland.

Follow us and see why we're so nuts about KP!



William III and Mary II bought the palace in 1689.



George I created his majestic apartments in the 1720s.



Princess Victoria was born here in 1819 and became Queen in 1837.



Diana, Princess of Wales, lived here till her death in 1997.



Princess Margaret lived here till her death in 2002. Diana and Margaret didn't live in the rooms we're about to explore, but both had private apartments here.

## Polite to stair

Our trail starts at the bottom of the King's Grand Staircase, created by George I. Like most monarchs, he loved showing visitors like you how rich, powerful and popular he was. Those people staring down at you are members of his royal court. **How do they make you feel?**

- small
- important
- nervous
- curious
- excited
- scared
- bored
- giggly

## Wild, boy

A typical king, George adored hanging out with stars like Peter the Wild Boy. He was found living rough in Germany, brought to London and became a top celeb. **Find him in the crowd and write down what he's holding.**



## Count upwards

How many stairs are there on the King's Grand Staircase?

## Strictly VIPs

Congratulations! You've made it upstairs to the King's Presence Chamber - and only real VIPs got this close to the monarch. Look up! Kensington Palace is full of amazing ceilings. As you go from room to room, tick these off when you spot them.

- motorbike
- horse
- eagle
- angel
- feather
- baby
- chariot
- trumpet

Pssst! One of these is a trick item - but which one?

## Score doors

Strange but true: As you walk down the passage leading away from this room, you'll see the doors get smaller. It seems the closer you came to the royals, the less they showed off.

## Seasons to be cheerful

Next stop: The Privy Chamber – an even more exclusive waiting room. Clearly, royals loved fabulous walls as much as fabulous ceilings. These exquisite tapestries show the four seasons. Try matching the right scene to the right season by writing down the clues you can spot.

spring

summer

autumn

winter

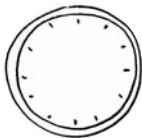
## Eyes don't believe it

Now find Kensington Palace's grandest state room, the Cupola Room – and just check out its amazing ceiling! Incredibly, it's totally flat after those feathers in each corner. That curve is an optical illusion by the artist, William Kent. He knew how much royals adored smart tricks.

### Fine time

There's a tiny clock somewhere in this room.

When you find it, draw the time it shows here.



### It's a hold up!

Now you've found the clock, look up. Kings, especially William, imagined themselves as heroes in tales about ancient Roman and Greek gods. You'll see two gods above the clock, Atlas and Hercules. But what are they holding up?

- the football World Cup
- a beach ball
- the World

## You've arrived!

Find your way to the King's Drawing Room. This magnificent room was the centre of palace life, where the monarch would hang out with his courtiers, all dressed in the very latest fashions.

### Family affair

Mighty monarchs like Queen Victoria weren't only idolised by the public, they were idolised by their families as well. Look out of the window in the King's Drawing Room. Can you see her statue looking across the Round Pond outside?

It was created by her loving daughter, Princess Louise. Talented kid!



### Toys are us, too

Like all kids, the young princes and princesses loved playing. It's not really part of our trail, but you might get a chance to sneak a peek of Victoria's toys in the Council Chamber. But where's her Xbox?

## Strictly private

Next it's Princess Victoria's bedroom. It's a really private space, which proves that the royals didn't show off all the time. But what did she use the Indian clubs by the fireplace for?

- exercising
- playing rounders
- beating up burglars

### Sign up

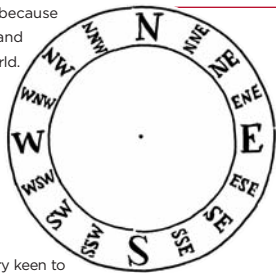
Check out the fancy lettering on the back of the chair. It's called a cipher and features Victoria's initials. Use your initials to design your own cipher.

## Blowing in the wind

When you arrive at the King's Gallery, look for the wind dial above the fireplace. Its pointer is connected to a wind vane on the palace roof and was supposed to show our monarchs which way the wind was blowing their ships.

That was very important because our royals used to command the biggest navy in the world.

Draw an arrow on this dial to show which way the wind is blowing today.



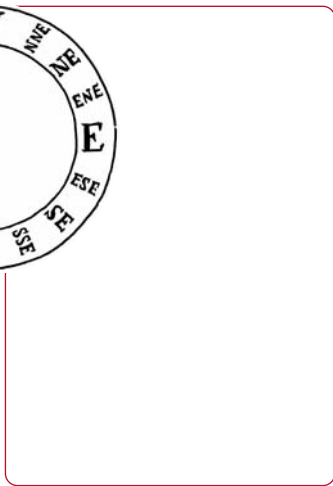
## Going continental

Kings and queens were very keen to show how much they knew about the world. In each corner of the wind dial, you can see pictures of four continents: Europe, Asia, Africa and America? Which one is which - and why do you think Australia is missing?

- the king was scared of kangaroos
- the British hadn't been there yet
- there wasn't room

## Getting down under

Imagine if the king asked you to paint Australia on his wind dial, use this space to show him what it would look like. Don't forget to include a kangaroo and a surfboard!



## Just chilling

Find your way to Queen Mary's Drawing Room, here's where she relaxed with her friends and family. She probably didn't do any drawing here. But look around and tick off what else she might have enjoyed doing:

- sewing
- watching TV
- collecting porcelain

## Tiptoe through

Now, wander through Queen Mary's Dining Room to her Closet. No: she didn't keep her clothes here. Closet just means private room. Check out the weird vases next to the fireplace. They were used to show off tulips. People used to adore tulips and paid a fortune for the rarest specimens.



## Royal favourites

The final room on our trail is Queen Mary's Gallery, a private place where she hung out with friends and enjoyed her favourite hobbies, like collecting precious porcelain from China and Japan and looking after her animals. She had little red velvet beds made for her dogs and kept exotic birds in cages hung in the windows.



## Your private collection

Are you a collector? If so, write what you collect here and draw your favourite object. Otherwise, imagine what you would collect if you were a royal with all the money in the world.



## Dream ceiling

The incredible ceilings at Kensington Palace are unforgettable! When you get home, imagine you're a member of a royal family and design a fabulous ceiling for your bedroom. It's probably the last thing you'll see before falling asleep, so make it special.



### Answers

- P2. Peter is holding some oak leaves and acorns.
- P2. There are 42 steps on the King's Grand Staircase.
- P2. The motorbike is the trick item.
- P3. The clock is in the case at the centre of the room.
- P3. c.The world.
- P4. a.Exercising.
- P5. b.The British hadn't discovered Australia yet.
- P6. a and c.Sewing and collecting porcelain.

Illustrations by Tim Archbold

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