

### Suggested music

*Zadok the Priest*, the anthem composed by Handel for the coronation of George II:

<https://bit.ly/3rZKHem>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR SLIDE PRESENTATION

### Slide 3: Celebrating Royal events

**IMAGES:** Collection of souvenirs marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012; octagonal plate celebrating Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887

The earliest known commemorative souvenirs marking Royal events in Britain date from the Restoration of Charles II in 1660.

Ceramics and coins have always been popular as souvenirs and, since Victorian times, sets of stamps.

More recently, souvenirs have ranged from expensive plates, hand-finished with gold, to shopping bags, tea towels, jigsaws, t-shirts and fridge magnets.

*Note: If possible, source some Royal souvenirs to use as props.*

### Slide 4: Queen Elizabeth II

**IMAGE:** Official photo released by Buckingham Palace to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022

Elizabeth II became Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 6 February 1952, following the death of her father, King George VI. After 70 years, the Queen is now the longest reigning monarch in 1000 years of Britain's history.

Elizabeth was born in London on 21 April 1926, but also celebrates an 'official birthday' on the second Saturday in June. This tradition dates back over 260 years to the reign of King George II. His actual birthday was in November, but celebrations were moved to June when the weather was more reliable for large public events.

On 21 April 2021, Queen Elizabeth became the first British monarch to reach the age of 95.

### Slide 5: Queen of many countries

**IMAGES:** The Queen's coronation dress; detail of embroidery on dress showing combined emblems of 10 nations

In 1952 Elizabeth II also became Queen of six other independent countries: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon (Sri Lanka). When the dress for her coronation ceremony was being designed, she suggested that the emblems of these countries be included in the design, as well as the four national emblems of the United Kingdom.

Today, Elizabeth II is Queen of 14 countries in addition to the United Kingdom (known as Commonwealth realms), representing 150 million people.

### Slide 6: The Commonwealth of Nations

**IMAGE:** Commonwealth Day 2019

The Queen is also Head of the Commonwealth of Nations, a voluntary association of 54 independent and equal countries, including the Commonwealth Realms. Most are former territories of the British Empire.

Today the Commonwealth is made up of over 2.5 billion people (a third of the world's population), of many different faiths, cultures, and traditions.

The Commonwealth Secretariat (an intergovernmental organisation) works all over the Commonwealth on issues that concern all countries, such as: boosting trade and the economy, protecting the environment, education, gender equality, health, and sport.

### Slide 7: What power does the Queen have?

**IMAGE:** The Queen at the State Opening of Parliament

Although the United Kingdom is a monarchy, the Queen's power as head of state is strictly ceremonial and symbolic.

One of her roles is to mark the opening of Parliament every year at the State Opening Ceremony, during which she reads out the government's policy and ideas. The Queen also has a private meeting with the Prime Minister every week.

The Queen also carries out official engagements, including hosting state banquets for important overseas visitors to Britain, representing the UK on overseas tours, presenting awards, visiting schools and hospitals, and acting as patron of several charities.

## Slide 8: Royal Jubilees

**IMAGE:** The Queen celebrating her Golden Jubilee in 2002

Jubilees are special anniversaries of events and have been celebrated throughout the world for thousands of years.

Royal Jubilees celebrate the life and reign of a monarch and take place after the monarch has ruled for a certain number of years.

Each Royal Jubilee is associated with a different precious metal or gemstone, the most significant being Silver (25 years), Gold (50 years), Diamond (60 years) and Platinum (70 years).

The Queen went on long tours of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth countries to celebrate her Silver and Gold Jubilees in 1977 and 2002. She toured the four nations of the United Kingdom to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

## Slide 9: Celebrating Royal Jubilees

**IMAGES:** King George III and Queen Victoria  
Celebrating Royal Jubilees really started in the United Kingdom with the Golden Jubilee of George III in 1810 (50 years). That first Royal Jubilee was celebrated with feasts and firework displays in London, Windsor and around the United Kingdom.

Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1887 (50 years) and her Diamond Jubilee in 1897 (60 years). The largest celebrations took place in London with Royal banquets, spectacular processions and firework displays. People also celebrated in their local communities and across the British Empire.

## Slide 10: Celebrating at the Tower

**IMAGES:** (left to right) the Imperial State Crown; The Tower of London; The Silver Jubilee Pageant at the Tower in 1935

The Tower of London is one of Britain's most iconic sites and home to the Crown Jewels. Ever since William the Conqueror began building this fortified Royal palace in the 1070s, it has had close links to the history of the monarchy.

In May 1935, George V's Silver Jubilee (25 years) was celebrated at the Tower with a spectacular pageant performed in the moat.

In 1977, a display of flowers (begonias sent as a gift by the King of Belgium) was planted in the moat in the shape of the Royal coat of arms to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

In 2002, Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee (50 years) was celebrated with a brand new display gallery of the Crown Jewels at the Tower of London.

Crowds gathered at the Tower in 2012 to watch the Thames River Pageant, celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

## Slide 11: Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee

**IMAGES:** Trooping the Colour; Jubilee street party in Leicestershire

In 2022, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations will culminate in events taking place over a four-day Bank Holiday weekend in the United Kingdom, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June.

In London, celebrations will include The Queen's Birthday Parade (known as Trooping the Colour) and a Platinum Jubilee Pageant featuring over 5,000 people from across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

Finally, a chain of Platinum Beacons (bonfires) will be lit across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

## Slide 12: Superbloom at the Tower 2022

**IMAGES:** Beefeater in the Moat; cornflower with bumble bee; preparing the Moat for Superbloom.

To celebrate the Queen's historic Platinum Jubilee in 2022, the Tower's Moat has been transformed into a gigantic flower meadow known as Superbloom. Over 20 million seeds have been planted - flower varieties that support pollinators.

The focus of the Superbloom is the relationship between nature and wellbeing. Visitors will be able to walk through the Superbloom and experience a positive green space in the heart of London.

Between May and September 2022, it will attract visitors to the UK from all over the world.

## SUGGESTED KEY POINTS AND QUESTIONS

### Slide 3: Celebrating Royal events

- Put your hand up if you've ever bought a souvenir – perhaps from somewhere you visited?
- Souvenirs are a really good way to remember a place or an event.
- Some people like to buy or collect souvenirs to remember important Royal events.
- This year we're celebrating a very important Royal event. We're going to find out about it in this assembly!

### Slide 4: Queen Elizabeth II

- Elizabeth II is Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Can anyone name one of the four nations that make up the United Kingdom?
- Elizabeth became Queen in 1952. Can you count on in 10s and work out how many years she has been Queen for?
- In the last 1000 years, Elizabeth II is the first King or Queen of the United Kingdom to celebrate 70 years on the throne.

### Slide 5: Queen of many countries

- Elizabeth II wore this dress at her coronation when she was crowned Queen in Westminster Abbey.
- Can you see the little yellow flower in the embroidery? This is a Golden Wattle, the national flower, or emblem, of Australia.
- When she was crowned, Elizabeth II also became Queen of six other countries including Australia.
- Today Elizabeth II is Queen of 14 other countries as well as the United Kingdom.

### Slide 6: The Commonwealth of Nations

- The Queen is also Head of the Commonwealth, a group of 54 countries.
- Most of the countries were part of the Empire that Britain built in the past.
- Today these countries are all equal and work together on issues that are important to them all.
- Many people in the UK and overseas see the Queen as the person that unites everyone in the Commonwealth.

### Slide 7: What power does the Queen have?

- Can you see the Queen sitting on a throne in this photo?
- She is at a ceremony called the State Opening of Parliament. It is one of the Queen's duties to open Parliament every year.
- She is the Head of State – the highest leader in the United Kingdom – but she does not have the power to make laws.
- She represents the UK overseas and carries out hundreds of official engagements every year.

### Slide 8: Royal Jubilees

- Has anyone ever been to a party to celebrate a Silver Wedding anniversary? Or even a Golden one? That means the couple had been married for 25 or 50 years!
- When a King or Queen has been on the throne for a certain number of years they celebrate what is called a Royal Jubilee.
- This photo shows the Queen on a tour to celebrate her Golden Jubilee in 2002.
- This year she will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee – the first King or Queen of the United Kingdom ever to reign for 70 years.

### Slide 9: Celebrating Royal Jubilees

- Do you know who this Queen is? [Victoria – Queen Elizabeth's great great grandmother]
- The King is George III, Queen Victoria's grandfather [Queen Elizabeth's great great great grandfather], as a young man. He was the first British monarch to celebrate a Golden Jubilee, almost 200 years ago.
- Queen Victoria celebrated her Golden Jubilee and her Diamond Jubilee. Celebrations included firework displays, fetes, feasts and processions. Big beacons (bonfires) were lit across the United Kingdom. People in the United Kingdom and other countries that are now part of the Commonwealth celebrated these Jubilees.

## **Slide 10: Celebrating at the Tower**

- Put your hand up if you have visited the Tower of London.
- In the past, it was a Royal Palace for Kings and Queens. Today the Crown Jewels are kept safe here when they are not being used for important ceremonies.
- The Tower has celebrated Royal Jubilees in many different ways in the past.
- This summer a spectacular field of flowers called the Superbloom will fill the moat to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee.

## **Slide 11: Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee**

- This year there is a four-day holiday for everyone in June (at the end of half-term) so that we can all come together to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.
- There will be lots of exciting events in London and other big towns and cities.
- People will also celebrate in their local communities – perhaps with street parties, fetes, carnivals and firework displays (include details of your local events, if known).
- We are all a part of this very important historical event in our country's history!

## **Slide 12: A Moment in History**

So, what's so special about the Platinum Jubilee?

- The Queen is the first to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee in the one-thousand-year history of the British monarchy since William the Conqueror.
- The celebrations will culminate over the Bank Holiday in June, with spectacular events in central London and local events around the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. (Include details of local events, if known.)
- We are all part of an extraordinary historical event. Perhaps you will tell your children, grandchildren and even your greatgrandchildren all about it in the future!