



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

TOWER OF LONDON

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

CORONATION SYMBOLS: ART AND DESIGN

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TODAY WE WILL:

- Develop an understanding of the language of symbolism.
- Explore the symbolism behind the objects traditionally used in the coronation.
- Investigate how symbols are used in portraits to communicate a message.
- Consider the values we think are important for the future and consider what might symbolise those values.

WHAT IS A CORONATION?

The Coronation is the ceremony at which a king or queen symbolically receives their crown



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SYMBOLIC



EVERYDAY SYMBOLS



What do the three objects used in the coronation symbolise?



King Harold, Bayeux Tapestry
6th January 1066



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Elizabeth I
15th January 1559



Henry III
28th October 1216



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Saint Edward's Crown



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Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross



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Sovereign's Orb

The Sceptre



The Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross was made for the coronation of King Charles II in 1661. It has been used at all coronations since.

- In the centre of the cross is a large emerald.
- In 1910, the Cullinan I diamond was added to the sceptre.
- The Cullinan I diamond is the largest colourless, cut diamond in the world.
- The diamond was discovered in South Africa in 1905.

The Orb

The current orb was created for the coronation of King Charles II in 1661.

- The cross on the top is covered with diamonds and has a sapphire in the centre on one side and an emerald on the other.
- The three sections represent the three known continents in England in the medieval period: Europe, Asia and Africa.
- During the coronation the orb is held in the monarch's right hand.
- It is placed on the altar as the monarch is crowned.



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St. Edward's Crown



Traditionally St. Edward's Crown is used only for the moment of crowning and is named after the 11th century King and Saint, Edward the Confessor.

- Versions of St. Edward's Crown have been used to crown English and British monarchs at their coronations since the 11th century.
- This version of St. Edward's Crown was made for the coronation of King Charles II in 1661.
- The crown is decorated with 444 precious and semi precious stones, including:
 - 345 rose-cut aquamarines
 - 37 white topazes
 - 27 tourmalines
 - 12 rubies
 - 7 amethysts
 - 6 sapphires
- The crown is 30 centimetres tall and is made of solid gold. It weighs over 2kg.



The Imperial State Crown



Historically the Imperial State Crown is worn by the new monarch at the end of the ceremony and for the procession in the streets after the coronation.

- In the centre of the cross is St. Edward's Sapphire, which is said to have come from the ring of Edward the Confessor.
- The four large pearls below the orb and cross are said to have belonged to Queen Elizabeth I.
- The crown contains:
 - 2,868 diamonds
 - 17 sapphires
 - 11 emeralds
 - 4 rubies
 - 269 pearls
- The crown weighs over 1kg.

What do the crowns symbolise?





© Victoria and Albert Museum

Queen Elizabeth II, 2nd June 1953



© National Portrait Gallery, London

Royal group on the occasion of the coronation of King George VI,
12th May 1937



© Royal Museums Greenwich

'Armada Portrait' of Elizabeth I, c.1588

HERALDIC BEASTS AND OTHER ANIMALS

Heraldic beasts



© Historic Royal Palaces 2023



© Historic Royal Palaces 2023



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Royal Coat of Arms



Three Lions



COLOUR



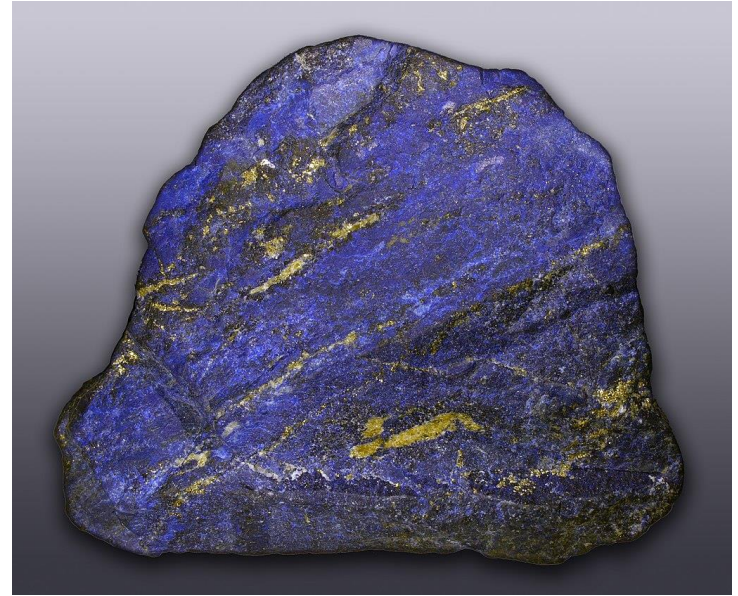
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Queen Elizabeth II meeting Canadian President Justin Trudeau, March 2022



© The National Gallery

The Virgin and Child, c. 1480-90, Giovanni Bellini



Lapis lazuli

FLORA AND FAUNA

Britain and the Commonwealth



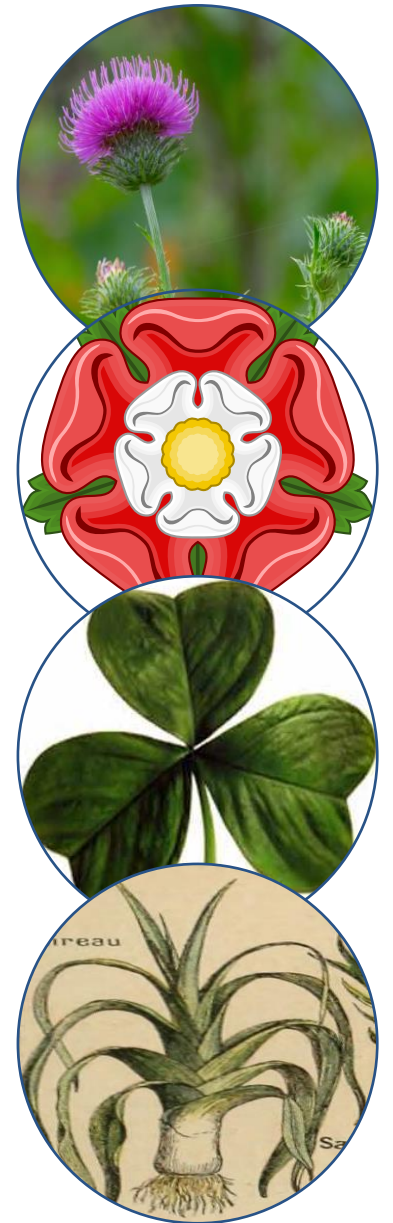
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Queen Elizabeth II in Coronation Robes, by Sir
Herbert James Gunn



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A detail from Queen Elizabeth II's coronation
dress





© National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, USA

Barack Obama, by Kehinde Wiley, 2017

OBJECTS



© The National Gallery

The Ambassadors, by Hans Holbein the Younger, 1533

What are the key values that Britain
needs for the future?

What are the key values that Britain needs for the future?

What animal might symbolise the qualities of your value?

What colours might symbolise this value?

What objects might represent the meaning of your value?

Is there any existing imagery that you associate with this value? How could you adapt it?