When Queen Victoria died in 1901, her eldest son, Albert Edward, became King Edward VII. King Edward VII was our present Queen's great-grandfather. He was king for only nine years before his death in 1910 aged 68 years.

When King Edward VII died in 1910 his son, George Frederick Ernest Albert, became King George V. He was a grandson of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, and the grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II.

King George V had two sons, Prince Edward and Prince Albert. Both princes became Kings. This picture, taken before the old king died, shows King George with his two sons and his father, King Edward VII.

When the old King died, his son King George V wrote in his diary...

I have lost my best friend and the best of fathers. I never had a cross word with him in my life. I am heartbroken and overwhelmed with grief.

Four years after George died, World War I broke out. Britain was at war.

This is a recruitment poster for WW1 urging young men to fight for their King and country. Their King was King George V.

King George V with his son who became King George VI (Queen Elizabeth II's uncle) and Prince Albert who became King George VI (Queen Elizabeth II's father).
When George V died, his eldest son, Edward, became King.

King Edward VIII was King from January 20th 1936 until his abdication on December 11th 1936 – less than 11 months later. He abdicated because he was in love with an American woman called Wallis Simpson and wanted to marry her.

The problem was, Wallis Simpson was already married to an American, and wanted to marry King Edward. The problem was, Wallis Simpson had been divorced once before and had yet to divorce her second husband before she could marry King Edward.

In a radio broadcast to the nation, Edward VIII said, “I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as king as I would wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love”.

Abdication was a terrible and very serious matter.

Parliament told Edward that the public and the Church of England would not agree to his marriage to a divorced woman. He could not marry Mrs Simpson and remain king. He must choose either to give her up or abdicate.

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Edward’s younger brother Albert Frederick Arthur George had never expected to become king. He had expected to have a much different life to that of his brother who should have been the British King.

He had served in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force during the First World War and in 1923 he’d married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. They’d had two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret.

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By the time Princess Elizabeth was ten years old when King Edward VIII abdicated and her father became king.

Princess Elizabeth and her younger sister, Princess Margaret, at the Coronation of their father, King George VI, May 12th 1937

The King and Queen visiting bomb sites in London to offer their support.

The King and Queen waving from the balcony at Buckingham Palace to the crowds in the street below.

The ATS was the women’s branch of the British Army during WW2.

While she was in the ATS, Princess Elizabeth learned to drive and trained as a mechanic so that she could help to repair military vehicles.

www.ks1resources.co.uk

In 1942, when she was 16 years old, Princess Elizabeth wanted to be a nurse. She wanted to help people who had been injured by the bombing in London. Her father, King George VI, thought it would be much too dangerous for the future queen so, she waited until she was 18 years old and then she was allowed to join the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service).

In 1948 Prince Charles was born. The first picture shows the King and Queen with Princess Elizabeth, Prince Philip and their new baby, Prince Charles.

In 1950, Princess Anne was born.

Two years later, on November 20th 1947, Princess Elizabeth married Prince Philip. They were married in Westminster Abbey.

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In Kenya, Prince Philip received a message that the King had died and had to break the news to Elizabeth that her father was dead.

The King's death meant that Elizabeth was no longer Princess Elizabeth, now she was Queen Elizabeth II.

A very sad Queen Elizabeth II returned to London.

The Gold State Coach carried the Queen to her coronation in 1953 and on June 4th, 2012, during her Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, it carried her to St Paul's Cathedral for a celebration of her sixty years as Queen.

Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 after sixty years on the throne, just as Queen Victoria had celebrated her Diamond Jubilee 115 years earlier in 1897.

Who will be our next King or Queen?

A year after her father's death, Queen Elizabeth II was officially crowned Queen. Her coronation was held in Westminster Abbey. It was the first time that any coronation had been seen on television.

Queen Elizabeth arrived at the Abbey in the State Coach watched by thousands of people in the crowd while thousands more watched the coronation on TV.

The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

Coronation 1953

After Prince Charles and Princess Anne were born, Queen Elizabeth II had two more children. Prince Andrew was born in 1960 and Prince Edward was born in 1964. But, it is Prince Charles who is next in line to become King.

Prince Charles' eldest son Prince William will also be king one day and after him, it will be William's son, Prince George.