

QUEEN ELIZABETH II



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 **SCHOLASTIC**

Dedicated to my mum, Diane Pilkington –
A queen if ever there was one.

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A LASTING LEGACY

Since Elizabeth was born, the world has changed at a faster pace than ever before. Elizabeth has witnessed world conflicts, political upheaval, natural disasters, and fights for progress. Elizabeth has also witnessed unparalleled technological innovation, from the first television broadcasts to the invention of the internet and the development of the smartphone. Elizabeth's legacy is her ability to adapt to these changes while remaining a symbol of consistency and stability.

As well as adapting to these changes, Elizabeth has embraced many of them in her work, from the early days of television and social media, sending her first Tweet™ in 2014, to her audiences sometimes being conducted via Facetime™ and Skype™.

Developments in travel have allowed Elizabeth to visit more countries than any other monarch.

During her reign Elizabeth has visited more than 120 countries and met with hundreds of foreign leaders including thirteen presidents of the United States. As well as meeting leaders, Elizabeth had met ordinary people too during the walkabouts she pioneered in 1970.

A Leader Among Leaders

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Elizabeth's long reign has meant she has seen many other leaders come and go, making her a leader among leaders. During her time as queen, Elizabeth has worked with fifteen British prime ministers, from Sir Winston Churchill when she came to the throne in 1952 to Prime Minister Liz Truss today. Working with this many prime ministers through the years has meant that Elizabeth has witnessed countless government conflicts and crises and come out the other side.

Prime Minister David Cameron said that during his audiences with the Queen he was very conscious of the fact that he was number twelve and that, "She started with

Winston Churchill and she has heard it all before.”

When she came to the throne Elizabeth was head of state in thirty-two countries. Over the years, as more countries gained independence, that number has dropped to fourteen, excluding the United Kingdom. These countries are known as ‘realms’. As head of state of these realms, Elizabeth has met and has had regular audiences with leaders from all fourteen countries.

COMMONWEALTH REALMS:

Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, the Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

During her reign, Elizabeth has met with fifteen prime ministers of Australia, twelve prime ministers of Canada, nine prime ministers of Jamaica, sixteen prime ministers of New Zealand, eight prime ministers of Papua New Guinea and many more.

Elizabeth is also head of the Commonwealth of Nations, an association of fifty-four member countries, including the United Kingdom and the fourteen realms of which she is head of state. Of the remaining thirty-seven countries, six have kings or queens of their own and thirty-two are republics, which means they have a president. Elizabeth holds a meeting for all of these leaders every two years.

Honouring the Brave

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As a constitutional monarch, Elizabeth is not able to make laws or even vote, but Elizabeth is the only person in the United Kingdom who is able to give people honours. Elizabeth awards honours to people who have served the country, either by being exceptionally good at what they do, or for outstanding service to their community. Honours are awarded to people at a ceremony known as an Investiture. Members of the public can nominate people who they believe deserve an award; who receives an award is decided by the Cabinet Office.

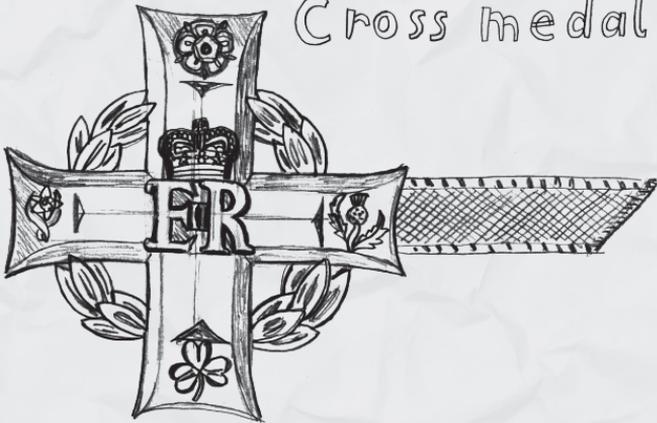
The most famous honours Elizabeth can give out are knighthoods, OBEs, CBEs and MBEs. Elizabeth also awards honours for bravery, both inside and outside of military service.

A Medal of Her Own

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In 2009, a new military award was created to recognize the families of members of the armed forces who died during an act of terrorism or during military operations. The Elizabeth Cross is a silver cross with the national flowers of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales engraved on each arm.

The
Elizabeth
Cross medal



"THIS SEEMS TO ME A RIGHT
AND PROPER WAY OF SHOWING
OUR ENDURING DEBT TO THOSE
WHO ARE KILLED WHILE
ACTIVELY PROTECTING WHAT
IS MOST DEAR TO US ALL."¹¹

Queen Elizabeth II, 2009

The cross is awarded not just to the families of servicemen and women who have died in recent conflicts, but in conflicts dating back to 1948.

This is the first medal to bear a monarch's name since her father announced the institution of the George Cross in 1940. The George Cross is awarded to recognize exceptional acts of bravery not in the presence of the enemy, such as bomb disposal.

The Victoria Cross is awarded for bravery while in the presence of an enemy, such as on the field of battle.