

Key Questions

What powers do kings and queens of Britain have and how has this changed over time?

What lasting effects have significant kings and queens of Britain had on the politics and culture of Britain?

Key words	Explanation
monarch	the king or queen of a country
parliament	the people who make the laws of a country and govern it
The Bayeux Tapestry	a long embroidery showing the story of the Battle of Hastings in 1066
nobility	the richer people, often landowners with political power
peasantry	the workers, often very poor with little power
Pope	the head of the Roman Catholic church
The Crown	the position of power that a king or queen has
The Church	an organisation of religious believers

William The Conqueror
1066-1087
A Norman from France- of Viking descent



Came to power:	By invading Britain with the Pope's backing after his cousin (The King) died but he Harold got to be king instead of him. (Battle of Hastings)
Power to:	Set all the laws, own all the land and rule all the people.
Due to his reign...	The language changed, we have castles, we have cathedrals

King John
1199-1216
An Anglo- Saxon living in England



Came to power:	When his Brother Richard the Lionheart died. (He had tried to take over sneakily before this.)
Famous for:	Wasting lots of money, raising taxes, selling charters and sheriff positions, losing land in France. Upsetting nobles.
Due to his reign...	The Magna Carta was created meaning that the king had to consult parliament before passing laws.

King Henry V
1413-1422
A very popular king!



Came to power:

His father (Henry IV) seized throne from Richard II and Henry became king after he died.

Famous for:

being brave and religious, speaking English, winning battles against the French, marrying the king of France's daughter.

Due to his reign:

more people supported the monarchy, the wars with France lasted many years more.

King Henry VIII
1509-1547
Yes, the one with the six wives!



Came to power:

He was the son of Henry VII. His brother should have been king but died before he had the chance.

Famous for:

falling out with the Pope because he wanted a divorce, taking all the land and money from the catholic church, realising that the French were too strong to beat.

Due to his reign:

England no longer tried to take French land, The Church of England exists and people can divorce,

Queen Victoria
1837-1901
Also Empress of India!



Came to power:

because there weren't any royal boys to take the throne (the rule changed in 1702)

Famous for:

supporting charities, being monarch of 1/4 of the world's population, encouraging technology and travel

Due to her reign:

working class people could vote, England had railways, there were more public facilities (schools, libraries, parks)

Queen Elizabeth II
1952- present
The longest reigning so far!



Came to power:

After her father died. (He was king because his brother had to abdicate as he wanted to marry a divorcee.)

Famous for:

doing warwork, overseeing the transition of the empire to the commonwealth, mixing with normal people.

Due to her reign:

the public felt more connected to royalty, Britain had better relationships with other countries