



All About King Charles III

BEFORE YOU READ

- 1 Do you have a Royal Family in your country? Or did you once have a Royal Family in your country?
- 2 What do you know about the British Royal Family?

READING



Charles Philip Arthur George Windsor became King Charles III when his mother Queen Elizabeth II died on 8 September 2022. He was 73 years old. Charles is the oldest person in British history to become king. For many years, during the Queen's long life, people wondered if Charles would ever be king.

The school years

He was born on 14 November 1948 in Buckingham Palace, the eldest child of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. He has a sister, Anne, and two brothers, Andrew and Edward.

Normally, members of the Royal Family have private tutors at home. But Charles went to various private schools. He was intelligent and worked hard, but he was a sensitive boy and it was not easy for him to make friends. When he was thirteen, he was sent to Gordonstoun, a private school in Scotland. He was a long way from home and often homesick. Other children teased and bullied him all the time. He hated the school.

Charles went to Cambridge University and studied archaeology, anthropology and history. He was the first heir to receive a degree. During this time, in 1969, he was given the title Prince of Wales at the age of nineteen. After university, Charles followed the Royal Family tradition and joined the military. He trained as a pilot in the Royal Air Force (RAF). He learned to fly jets and helicopters and also did parachute training.

Adult Life

As a young man, Charles had many girlfriends and was called a 'Playboy Prince'. He said he liked tall, blonde women and his romances were often in the press. He had about twenty relationships before he met Lady Diana Spencer in 1977 (and he only met Diana because he was dating her sister, Sarah!).

When Charles married Diana in 1981, hundreds of millions of people watched the wedding live on TV. It was a huge global media event. Diana was only nineteen and Charles was thirteen years older. They had two boys, William and Harry, but their marriage was not happy. They had many

differences, and Charles was having a love affair with Camilla Parker Bowles. It was not a secret, and Diana said in a famous interview "... there were three of us in this marriage". They divorced in 1996. Sadly, Diana died in a car accident in Paris the following year. Charles married Camilla in 2005. During this time, the Royal Family – especially Charles – became very unpopular in the UK.

During his life, Charles has created more than twenty charities and is connected to about 400 other charities. He is passionate about supporting communities, education, agriculture, healthcare and the arts and architecture, especially historic buildings. Most of all, Charles supports the environment. He has talked about the problems of climate change since his early adult life, and he is well-known for his strong opinions about it.

The Coronation

King Charles III's coronation will take place on the morning of Saturday 6 May 2023 in Westminster Abbey, where the Archbishop of Canterbury will place the glittering St Edward's Crown on his head. According to Buckingham Palace, the ceremony will be less expensive, shorter than in the past, and it will include elements of modern times to reflect the new sovereign's vision of 'a smaller and more modern monarchy'. The ceremony will also reflect the nation's ethnic diversity.





COMPREHENSION

3 Read the text about King Charles III. Then read the sentences and decide if they are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 The Queen wondered if Charles would become king. _____
- 2 Charles has three siblings. _____
- 3 Charles did not enjoy his time at school because he was not very academic. _____
- 4 It was not very common for a member of the Royal Family to join the military. _____
- 5 When Charles was a young man, he was popular with women and had a good time. _____
- 6 Camilla was one of Diana's best friends. _____
- 7 It has been important for Charles that he does as much as he can to help society. _____
- 8 He only became interested in the environment and climate change very recently. _____

VOCABULARY

4 Read the text again and find the words corresponding to the definitions.

- 1 _____: to think about something and want to know more
- 2 _____: your feelings are easily hurt
- 3 _____: sad because you miss your family and friends
- 4 _____: to laugh at somebody
- 5 _____: a custom that has existed for a long time
- 6 _____: to have a romantic relationship with someone
- 7 _____: to officially end a marriage
- 8 _____: an organisation that helps others for free

5 Read the 10 curious facts about Charles. Find a fact about...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| A his musical talents _____ | D his frog connection _____ |
| B his career as a writer _____ | E his collections _____ |
| C his breakfast habits _____ | F something he sells for charity _____ and _____ |

10 curious facts about King Charles III

- 1 He created a new town, Poundbury, which is based on what he likes about buildings. It is near Dorchester in England.
- 2 He is the author or co-author of more than twenty books. In 1980 he wrote a children's book called *The Old Man of Lochnagar*. It is based on stories he told his brothers when they were little, about a man near Balmoral, the Royal Family's castle in Scotland.
- 3 He played an important part in making a new whisky called Barrogill. Sales of the drink support Scottish projects.
- 4 At school he learned to play the piano, the trumpet and the cello. He played the cello in the university orchestra.
- 5 He is a best-selling artist and there are exhibitions of his paintings. When he sells his paintings, the money goes to his charities. Since 1997 they have earned about \$3 million.
- 6 Charles likes to collect cars, but he only buys cars which are safe for the environment such as electric cars.
- 7 He never flies on the same plane as his eldest son, William (who will be the next king) in case there is an accident.
- 8 Some people say that seven eggs are cooked for Charles every morning so he can choose the best one. No one is certain if this is really true.
- 9 A type of frog in Ecuador was named after Charles to recognise his work to support rainforests.
- 10 Charles was the first royal father to be present at the birth of his children.

SPEAKING

6 Discuss the questions in small groups. Give reasons for your opinions.

- 1 What do you think it is like to be a member of a Royal Family?
- 2 Do you think a Royal Family is a good thing for a country?
- 3 In your opinion, what can the King and his family really do for the environment?

All About King Charles III – Answer Key

Exercise 1

- 1 F
- 2 T
- 3 F
- 4 F
- 5 T
- 6 F
- 7 T
- 8 F

Exercise 2

- 1 to wonder
- 2 sensitive
- 3 homesick
- 4 tease
- 5 tradition
- 6 date
- 7 divorce
- 8 charity

Exercise 3

- A 4
- B 2
- C 8
- D 9
- E 6
- F 3 AND 5