



The Roles of The King

A Resource for KS3

King Charles III became King in 2022 following the long reign of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II. The King is a constitutional monarch. This means his roles are quite different from those of historic kings and queens. The King is known for his sense of duty and has devoted his life to our service. He has become a figurehead for the UK and the Commonwealth during our challenging times.



Head of State

The King represents the UK when he travels abroad on official visits. He also hosts other world leaders when they visit the UK.

Who is visiting the UK in this photo and which powerful country did he represent?

His Majesty is also sovereign in 15 countries.

See if you can find out which countries these are.

Solomon Islands		
		Tuvalu
	Grenada	
		St Lucia



Head of Nation

The King acts as a symbol of unity and national identity. He attends special events and gives national messages such as an annual Christmas broadcast. Traditions such as Trooping the Colour and Garter Day offer a sense of constancy for the public.

The King celebrates and recognises the achievements of people from all walks of life. He honours people for services to their community, their profession or to other good causes.

The King also oversees the Royal Collection. This is one of the largest and most important art collections in the world; it includes over 1 million paintings and objects.



Who do you think deserves an award from The King? Explain why.

Who? _____

Why? _____



Head of the Commonwealth



The King is also the Head of the Commonwealth, an organisation of countries, some of which Britain once ruled over. The Commonwealth includes 54 independent and equal countries that work towards shared goals. The King has visited many countries in the Commonwealth.

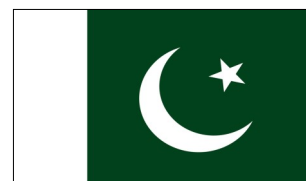
Can you name the some of countries of the Commonwealth by their Flag?
















Head of the Church of England



The monarch has held this role ever since it was created by Henry VIII in the 1530s. The role is mostly ceremonial, as the spiritual leader of the Church is the Archbishop of Canterbury. As a practicing Christian himself, The King takes a direct interest in the life and work of the Church.

 In this Eastertime picture, The King is attending the Royal Maundy Service at St George's Chapel inside Windsor Castle. In the past, the monarch would wash the feet of the poor. Today, our King gives special coins to members of the public. Can you guess why the children traditionally carry sweet smelling flowers?



Head of the Armed Forces



The King is the Commander in Chief of the Army, Navy and Air Force. The King holds many military appointments and honorary ranks. As a prince, Charles served in the forces himself, as did his mother and father and many other members of his immediate family.

 The 1st Battalion of The Coldstream Guards is based in Windsor. They often take part in the Changing of the Guard ceremony within the Castle. They wear the badge of the Order of the Garter, which reads 'Honi soit qui mal y pense'.



Can you find out what this means?

What would your impressive motto be if you had a private army?



Constitutional Responsibilities

Every day, a red box is delivered to The King containing many important papers and reports from government and Commonwealth officials. He is often asked to approve these by adding his signature. He opens each session of Parliament in person and has weekly meetings with the Prime Minister. He also



chairs meetings of a committee called the Privy Council. Any legislation passed by Parliament must also get The King's stamp of approval before becoming law. No monarch has refused to give approval since 1707, when Queen Anne refused a law that would have recreated a Scottish army after England and Scotland were joined.



If The King still had the power to create new laws, what new law would you want him to introduce and why?



Patron of Charities

The King and the Royal Family show their support for charities by becoming their patrons. They are patrons to over 3,000 charities worldwide! This gives The King and his family the opportunity to connect with people who serve and support their communities. The Royal Family carry out thousands of royal engagements every year, many of these supporting the work of charities.



If you were The King, which charities would you support and why?

