Famous MONARCHS

Aims & Objectives
- To understand more about the role of a monarch.
- To develop a knowledge of British kings and queens.
- To begin to understand the different types of art that can be used to reconstruct images of people and events.
- To distinguish between real monarchs (such as our present-day Queen) and fairytale monarchs.

Teaching & Learning Activities

OPENING ACTIVITY

I. Ask pupils to complete a family tree.
II. Ask them how they would find out about their family.
III. Make a list of what they would use to find out about their parents’ lives.

The following activities could be done in one lesson with the whole class or integrated with an existing SOW.

ACTIVITY I

I. Put these images from the BBC Famous People site on the IWB: ‘Princess Elizabeth, Charlotte the parrot, Queen Mary, Snip the dog and the Earl of Athlone at Balmoral’ and ‘Princess Elizabeth trains as an ATS Officer.’
II. Talk about what you can learn about the Queen when she was a princess.
III. Discuss what words you could use to describe her in the photographs.
IV. Ask the class to write as many words as they can remember from the discussion on to a piece of coloured card in order to create a frame.
V. Ask the class to draw an image of a parrot and dog with a speech bubble and write a sentence inside the speech bubble to sum up what they have learned about the Queen.
VI. Finally, get each child to cut out the pictures of the animals and stick them either side of their photo frame.

Resources
- ‘Famous Monarchs’ briefing sheet
- Monarch’s weekly diary worksheet
- A4 white and coloured paper for making scrapbooks
- coloured pencils
- sugar paper
- glue
- stapler
- scissors
- BBC Famous People website
ACTIVITY II

I Discuss the difference between the life of the Queen – as they have seen it in the images – and the life of the historic monarchs they learned about in the last lesson.

II Ask the class if they know of things that were different in their parents’ or grandparents’ childhoods compared to their own childhood.

III Explain to the class that there are different types of kings and queens and that over the centuries what they do and how they live has changed.

IV Explain to the class that the Queen has ruled for a long time but that things have changed a great deal since her ancestors first started to rule in England in 1066.

V Explain to the class that they are going to create a souvenir family scrapbook for the Queen’s Jubilee to show the different types of kings and queens that lived in the past.

VI Split the class into five groups using the examples on the ‘Famous Monarchs’ briefing sheet.

VII Give each group a large piece of sugar paper. Pupils should write the headings childhood, family, homes, clothes, food at the top of each page.

VIII Ask pupils to go to the BBC Famous People site and read about their famous monarch.

IX Once they have finished, pupils should type a sentence to go under each heading. This should be printed out when they have completed it.

X Ask the pupils to stick their sentences onto the scrap book pages and then draw pictures to go with them.

ACTIVITY III

I Give each group copies of the additional images about their monarch from the ‘Famous Monarchs’ briefing sheet.’

II Explain that all the images come from the Royal Collection.

III Ask each group to complete the discussion points and activities on the ‘Famous Monarchs’ briefing sheet.

IV Once the scrapbook pages are complete, tell the class to leave them on their tables.

ACTIVITY IV

I Tell the children that they are going to create an information book. They could call their book ‘Famous Kings and Queens of Britain’, ‘The Queen’s Family’ or simply ‘A Famous Monarch’.

II They need to write down the names of the kings and queens each group has looked at in their books.

III Each group should then move around the classroom to look at the scrapbook pages of their peers. They should use the information on the pages to write a sentence in their information book about each monarch.

IV Once they have completed their research they should be given copies of the images and they can stick in one image for each monarch.

V Have a discussion with the class about the different types of monarchs there are and why they are all different.

ACTIVITY V

I Split the class into groups. Hand out copies of the images from the ‘Famous Monarchs’ briefing sheet to each group.

II The groups need to think about what each object says about the monarch and why they might have created, commissioned or been presented with them.

III Using the information from the objects, discuss as a class all the activities that a monarch could take part in/be part of.
LESSON II – KEY STAGE 1

IV Discuss with the class what methods you can use to remember a date, and discuss who has a diary or calendar.

V Ask pupils to imagine that they are a lady-in-waiting or an equerry to the Queen. They have to organise the royal appointments diary for a week in the next month. They can use the information on the BBC Famous People site to help with this activity.

VI Hand out the Monarch's Weekly Diary worksheet which has morning, lunchtime, afternoon and evening slots.

VII Individually ask pupils to design a weekly diary for the Queen. Some pupils may wish to add timings to the activity. They should stick in or draw an image of the object that relates to the activity.

VIII When completed, ask pupils to look at their diary plans and discuss which event would be the most important event for the monarch to attend that week.

ACTIVITY VI

I Discuss with pupils how they find out about things their parents and grandparents did when they were younger.

II Discuss the idea of telling stories.

III The teacher could tell a story about things they did when they were young.

IV Then tell the class a story about a famous monarch. You could use the story of King Charles I hiding in the oak tree or you could tell the class about Mary Queen of Scots and the murders of Rizzio and Darnley.

V Discuss what makes these stories good.

VI Ask the class to pick something that may have happened during their monarch's week using an object/event from the diary exercise and ask them to tell/write a story about the object/event that they want people in the future to remember.

PLENARY

I Discuss what a monarch does.

II Talk about how they help the country and the importance of their family.

III Discuss how the famous monarchs they have learnt about are different from fairytale monarchs.

IV Ask the class what they think are the most interesting pieces of information they have discovered about kings and queens.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

I Find out about a week in the life of the Queen.

II Ask friends and family if they know any stories about famous monarchs.

III Take a book about British kings and queens out of the library.