

## Canada is ready for jubilee party ... but other nations aren't so keen (1005 words)

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### Worksheet with mediation

This worksheet and the article are written in British English. Sample answers are given in the answer key.

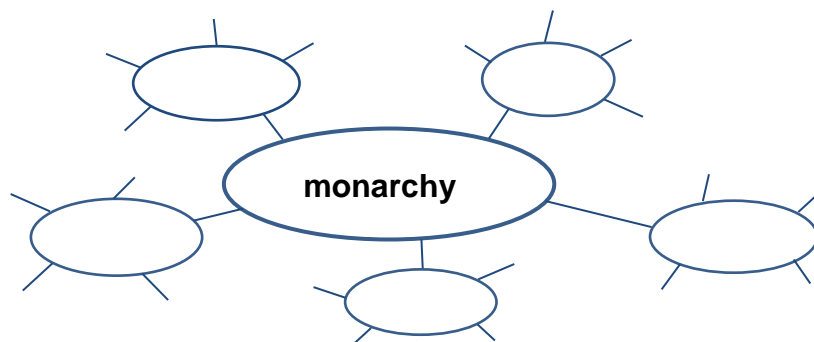
**Topics:** monarchy • tradition and change • post-colonialism • Commonwealth • British Empire

**Skills:** discussion • reading comprehension • viewing and listening comprehension • vocabulary  
• cartoon and picture analysis • mediation

### Pre-reading

#### 1. Warm-up: The monarchy

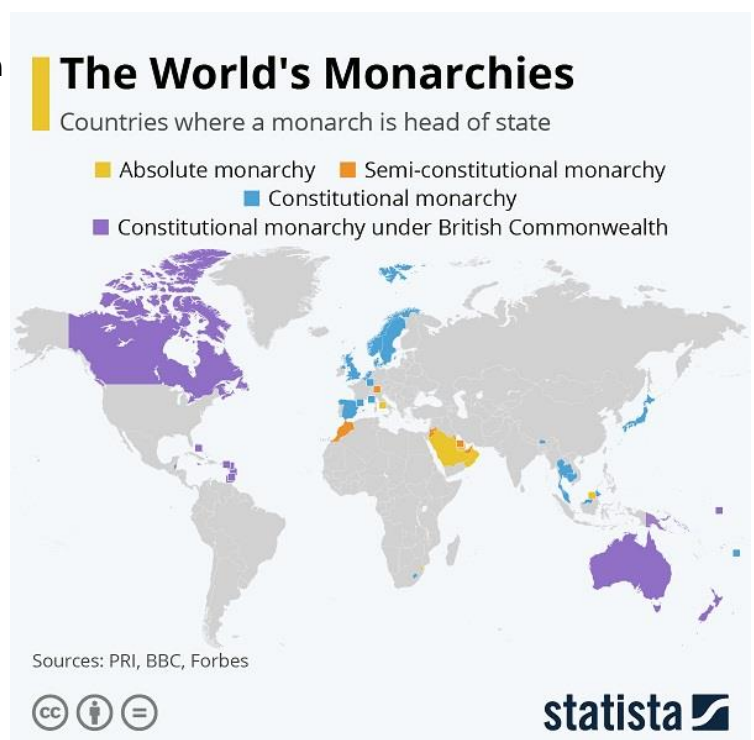
Work in small groups and brainstorm what comes to your mind when hearing the word "monarchy". Note down your thoughts in a mind map.



#### 2. Picture description and discussion

Take a look at this infographic.

- Find a partner and describe the infographic to each other.
- Discuss the different types of monarchies mentioned in the legend and take turns explaining what their differences are. Add information to your mind map in task 1.



| Infographic: Statista,  
<[www.statista.com/chart/24383/monarchies/](https://www.statista.com/chart/24383/monarchies/)>

## Reading comprehension and group discussion

Complete the following tasks.

1. In groups of four, distribute the following parts of the article among yourselves, so that each group member gets to summarise one part. Then, read out your summaries and give feedback.
  - **Part 1:** paragraphs 1–3
  - **Part 2:** paragraphs 4–7
  - **Part 3:** paragraphs 8–10
  - **Part 4:** paragraphs 11–12
2. The article clearly shows that the various Commonwealth countries feel very differently about the monarchy. Working with a partner, take another look at the infographic and take turns picking a Commonwealth country. State its respective view of the British monarchy in general and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in particular.
3. Using the text for guidance, complete the following sentences.
  - a) The fact that the Monarchist League of Canada was running out of jubilee lapel pins shows that ...
  - b) Philip Murphy explains that since Barbados has become a republic, other Caribbean countries ...
  - c) In many Commonwealth countries there seems to be a general feeling that when Queen Elizabeth II dies and her son Charles takes the throne, ...
4. Discuss the following questions in small groups. Make sure to use any relevant information from the text, but feel free to add your own arguments and thoughts too.
  - What challenges do the British royal family face regarding their status in the Commonwealth countries?
  - What would need to happen for the monarchy to regain popularity there?

## Vocabulary

Look at the vocabulary and find one synonym with words taken from the article.

a) lack of s.th.	A
b) to strengthen, to reinforce	B
c) speechless	C
d) rush, sudden rise	D
e) to ascend the throne	E
f) impetus, force, drive	F

## Post-reading

### 1. Viewing and listening comprehension

Watch the video about Australia and the country's ties to the British monarchy. Gather arguments presented in favour of and against removing the British monarch as head of state.

- Video: "Are you supportive of Prince Charles becoming king? An Australian Republic?" posted by ABC News (Australia), May 6, 2022, 3:06 mins.
- <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdMx\\_8RAggc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdMx_8RAggc)>

### 2. Picture description and comparison

Describe the two pictures and compare them. Then, interpret the second picture in regard to the cartoon's depiction of the British Empire and today's republican tendencies in some Commonwealth realms that still have the Queen as their head of state.

#### Picture 1: Map of the world showing the extent of the British Empire in 1886



| Image: Colomb, J. C. R. (John Charles Ready). "Imperial Federation, map of the world showing the extent of the British Empire in 1886." Map. London: MacClure & Co., 1886. Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center, <<https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:x633f896s>>(accessed July 21, 2022).

#### Picture 2: Cartoon

- **Note:** To access the cartoon, please click on the link below.
- Cartoon by Dominic McKenzie, published by *The Guardian*, March 19, 2017, accessed July 21, 2022.
- <[www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/19/empire-20-is-dangerous-nostalgia-for-something-that-never-existed](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/19/empire-20-is-dangerous-nostalgia-for-something-that-never-existed)>

## Mediation

Read Gabi Biesinger's comment on the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and summarise why she thinks Queen Elizabeth II still manages to enchant people all over the world, including people who don't consider themselves monarchists or supporters of the royal family. Write approximately 200 words.

- Article: "Humor und 70 Jahre Kontinuität", by Gabi Biesinger, *Tagesschau*, June 6, 2022, 598 words, accessed July 20, 2022.
- <[www.tagesschau.de/ausland/europa/queen-thronjubilaeum-70-jahre-elizabeth-kommentar-101.html](http://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/europa/queen-thronjubilaeum-70-jahre-elizabeth-kommentar-101.html)>

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## Answer key

### Pre-reading

#### 1. Possible categories and keywords

- **People:** queen, king, prince, princess, duke, duchess, monarch, ruler, subject, royal family, Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles, William and Kate, Harry and Meghan, Princess Diana, ...
- **Countries:** United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, Netherlands, Thailand, Morocco, ...
- **Nouns:** crown, sceptre, throne, coronation, royal engagement, castle, Buckingham palace, abdication of the throne, jubilee, monarchist, republican, tradition, carriage
- **Verbs:** to rule, to reign, to resign, to be on the throne, to fulfil a duty, to wave, ...
- **Adjectives:** royal, fascinating, old-fashioned, famous, popular, ...
- **Other:** tourism, tabloid press, scandals, colonialism, criticism, ...

#### 2.

##### a) Description infographic

The Statista infographic "The World's Monarchies" shows a world map. The countries featuring a monarch as head of state are highlighted in different colours. One can see that there are different types of monarchies: absolute monarchies (yellow), semi-constitutional monarchies (orange), constitutional monarchies (blue), and constitutional monarchies under British Commonwealth (purple).

The map illustrates that there aren't very many parts of the world in which a monarch is still head of state. In Europe and East Asia constitutional monarchies dominate and include European countries like Sweden, Norway, the UK, or Spain, as well as some East Asian countries like Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, and Malaysia.

The Vatican, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Brunei are absolute monarchies while Liechtenstein, Morocco, and countries on the Arabian Peninsula (Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates) are semi-constitutional monarchies.

The colour purple takes up by far the largest area. It covers Canada, Australia, New Zealand, island states in Oceania (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu), and several countries in the Caribbean (e.g., Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Grenada). Those purple countries are constitutional monarchies under British Commonwealth, which means that the Queen of England is their head of state.

##### b) Sample points

**Absolute monarchy:** absolute power held by monarch (king, queen) • no sharing of powers or separation of powers (legislature, executive, judiciary) • monarch not elected but holds hereditary power through family ties and "birthright"

**Semi-constitutional monarchy:** monarch almost as powerful as absolute monarch • monarch more powerful than constitutional monarch but restricted in some areas (shares some power with a president or prime minister)

**Constitutional monarchy:** constitution • monarch shares power with government (executive) • elected parliament (legislature) • judiciary • monarch is head of state but power is restricted

**Under British Commonwealth:** countries “under British Commonwealth” rule still have Queen Elizabeth II as head of state • 15 countries altogether • these countries are called Commonwealth realms • are part of the Commonwealth of Nations (association of over 50 countries, almost all used to be part of the British Empire, some have their own monarchs, others are republics.\*)

\* **Republic:** system of government without monarch; powerholders (prime minister, politicians) elected by the people

**These keywords that can be added to the mind map above:**

- **People:** head of state, powerholder, ...
- **Countries:** Australia, Canada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Papua New Guinea, ...
- **Nouns:** British Empire, inheritance, “birthright”, ...
- **Verbs:** to be under British rule, to become independent, ...
- **Adjectives:** absolute, constitutional, semi-constitutional, ...
- **Other:** Commonwealth, independence, republic, ...

## Reading comprehension

### 1. Sample answers

- Part 1:**  
paras. 1–3
- The article titled “Canada is ready for a jubilee party ... but other nations aren't so keen” by Will Pavia, Bernard Lagan, and Valentine Low was published in *The Times* (London) in May 2022 (see p. 16 of this *World and Press* issue). As the title suggests, the article deals with different attitudes towards the British monarchy and Queen Elizabeth II. It describes the response to the Queen's recent Platinum Jubilee, starting off with Canada where the population has a lot of admiration for the Queen and is eager to celebrate her jubilee in many ways: by wearing small silver jubilee pins, planting trees, and joining parades. However, this enthusiasm is not met by all Commonwealth parts of America.
- Part 2:**  
paras. 4–7
- In Jamaica there is considerably less enthusiasm about the jubilee party, and people are drawn to republicanism. This trend is likely going to gain momentum when Queen Elizabeth's dies and Prince Charles, far less popular than his mother, becomes the new head of state. According to scholar Philip Murphy, attitudes in Caribbean countries have changed since 2012, and the trend towards republicanism has grown ever since Barbados cut ties with the crown.
- Another topic which drives a wedge between the British crown and some Caribbean Commonwealth countries is the legacy of colonialism and slavery. The royal family is seen as enjoying ill-gotten wealth which stands in stark contrast to the suffering economy in the Caribbean region.
- Part 3:**  
paras. 8–10
- Other reasons for not celebrating the jubilee elsewhere in the Caribbean are feelings of indifference as well as other priorities (e.g., local and regional politics, elections). Additionally, amid the discussion about slavery

reparations, the royal family is viewed far too critically for the government to organise celebrations. The article further points to the negative impact the separation of the popular Sussexes and the royal family has had on the attitudes of Caribbeans towards the monarchy.

Lack of enthusiasm towards the royals is also found in Australia and New Zealand. Representatives of the republican movements of both countries reckon that republicanism will benefit from Prince Charles's succession to the throne because he is not popular at all.

**Part 4:**  
paras. 11–12  
In some Pacific nations the Queen remains popular, also because Australia is blamed for colonial injustices in that region rather than the British. People there feel a little indifferent about whether or not the Queen is head of state.

## 2. Sample points

**Canada:** enthusiasm, admiration, support (paras. 1, 2)

**Caribbean countries:** indifference, criticism, difficult relationship with royal family due to history of slavery and colonialism, calls for reparations (paras. 6, 8)

- **Jamaica:** little enthusiasm, indifference, no celebrations, unpopularity of Prince Charles, republican sentiments (para. 4)
- **Belize:** affection but no celebrations, republicanism (para. 7)
- **Saint Kitts and Nevis:** other priorities, discussion of reparations, negative effect of departure of well-liked Sussexes (paras. 8, 9)

**Oceania:**

- **Australia:** little enthusiasm, Prince Charles unpopular, growing republicanism (para. 10)
- **New Zealand:** little enthusiasm, Prince Charles unpopular, growing republicanism (para. 10)
- **Papua New Guinea:** high acceptance, holds Australia responsible for colonial injustices (rather than the UK), support but also indifference (paras. 10, 11)
- **Solomon Island:** high acceptance, support (para. 10)
- **Tuvalu:** ties with the crown questioned (para. 10)

## 3. Sample answers

- a) The fact that the Monarchist League of Canada was running out of jubilee lapel pins shows that ...  
... there are many people who support the Queen as their head of state/ people are happy to celebrate the jubilee/ there is a lot of enthusiasm among Canadians about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. (paras. 1, 2)
- b) Philip Murphy explains that since Barbados has become a republic, other Caribbean countries ...  
... show strong tendencies towards republicanism / are ready to become republics. (para. 5)
- c) In many Commonwealth countries there seems to be a general feeling that when Queen Elizabeth II dies and her son Charles takes the throne, ...  
... people will turn their backs on the monarchy / the role of the British monarch as the official head of state in their countries will come to an end / republicanism will become stronger and take over.

#### 4. Sample points

Challenges	Possible remedial changes
<p><b>Shrinking support and acceptance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• growing republicanism</li> <li>• monarchy seen as outdated</li> <li>• legitimacy questioned (inherited, unelected, not democratic, colonial heritage), privilege given to few people</li> <li>• criticism concerning costs (tax money used for upkeep of monarchy and royal family)</li> </ul> <p><b>Future transition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• looming succession</li> <li>• unpopularity of heir to the throne (Charles), public will re-evaluate the monarchy</li> </ul> <p><b>Colonial legacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• growing criticism concerning the legacy of colonialism and slavery, unjustified wealth</li> <li>• calls for reparations</li> </ul> <p><b>Public disagreements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• separation from Harry and Meghan, accusations of racism</li> <li>• loss of active members</li> </ul> <p><b>Criminal accusations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sexual assault case against Prince Andrew (accusations of sexual abuse of minor, Andrew paid settlement outside court)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public relations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emphasize monarch's role as source of continuity</li> <li>• emphasize the Queen's sense of duty and dedication to all Commonwealth countries</li> <li>• expand social media channels to engage with the public and involve Commonwealth countries more</li> </ul> <p><b>Future transition</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emphasize Charles transitional role as king, point to his more popular successor William</li> </ul> <p><b>Organisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce costs, reduce number of active royals</li> <li>• more visits to and more charitable projects in Commonwealth countries</li> <li>• change the ceremonial and focus of royal visits following backlash of Kate and William's royal tour of the Caribbean</li> </ul> <p><b>Accountability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acknowledge colonial injustices, be open to calls for reparations</li> <li>• no returning of Prince Andrew to any senior role within the royal family (wants to return to royal duties after he had stepped down and was stripped off titles)</li> </ul>

#### Vocabulary

a) lack of s.th.	A dearth of s.th. (para. 4)
b) to strengthen, to reinforce	B to bolster (para. 6)
c) speechless	C taken aback (para. 1)
d) rush, sudden rise	D surge (para. 10)
e) to ascend the throne	E to accede to the throne, to take the throne (para. 10)
f) impetus, force, drive	F momentum (paras. 5, 10)



## Post-reading

### 1. Sample arguments (removing the British monarch as head of state)

pros	cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australians have only kept ties with the British monarchy because of the Queen's long reign. Many would favour Australia's becoming a republic after her death.</li> <li>• People are less fond of Prince Charles, the Queen's future successor.</li> <li>• Only about 30% of Australians want to keep ties with the monarchy while 43% want to cut ties and 25% feel neutral or indifferent about this.</li> <li>• Australia is strong enough as a country to be an independent republic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queen Elizabeth II has played a key symbolic role for Australia and dedicated her life to heading the Commonwealth.</li> <li>• The support for a republic has only grown little in the last years.</li> <li>• A republican referendum failed in 1999.</li> <li>• People just need to get to know Prince Charles who will prepare Prince William's future reign.</li> <li>• Australia needs to prioritise on other matters (recognition of First Nations in Australia's constitution).</li> </ul>

### 2. Sample picture description and comparison

#### Picture 1 (map)

The picture shows an old map of the world framed by people of different cultures and origins. More precisely, the map presents the British Empire in 1886 that would soon expand further, with countries belonging to the British Empire depicted in red. Those countries are spread across all continents.

At the top, one can read three words that include modern liberal values: freedom, fraternity, and federation. At the bottom, there is a woman with a red cape and a golden helmet holding a trident and a shield bearing the Union Jack with the British colours red, white, and blue. The woman is known as Britannia, the national personification of Britain. She is sitting on a globe named "world" and is surrounded by people and exotic animals of various British colonies. The depiction of Britannia shows Britain as a glorious ruler of the world.

#### Picture 2 (cartoon)

The second picture is a cartoon from 2017 drawn by Dominic McKenzie and published in the daily British newspaper *The Guardian*. The cartoon shows a very old, mummified version of a woman in a dining room. Everything around the woman, who is sitting on a chair in the centre of the picture, is broken and decayed. There are cobwebs, dead flowers in a vase, a cracked map of the world in a wonky picture frame, ripped curtains, a little mouse, a chandelier with burned-down candles, and a dusty old cake sitting on the table, as well as a broken trident on the floor and a damaged golden helmet worn by the woman. The woman is weak and frail, resting her right elbow on the table. With her left arm, she is holding on to the Union Jack shield which has a huge cobweb attached to it. The woman represents Britannia who, despite her own physical decline and the crumbling of the British Empire, still holds on to the past.

The cartoon blends the depiction of Britannia and Miss Havisham, a character in Charles Dickens's novel *Great Expectations* who lives in a ruined mansion. Miss Havisham was

abandoned at the altar but keeps on wearing her wedding dress for the rest of her life. The scene in the cartoon depicts wedding celebrations that have ended a long time ago. The woman, wearing her wedding dress, is holding on to this moment as she sits at the table with the old, untouched wedding cake and the champagne glasses that have fallen over. The blending of the two figures ridicules Britain for living in the past.

### Comparison

When comparing these two pictures, it becomes clear that the mummy in the cartoon is the aged, almost dead version of Britannia in the map. Whereas the Britannia of 1886 looks glorious and powerful, her appearance in the guise of a doddering old woman shows how all of the Empire's former power and assumed glory has faded away and has long been forgotten. The picture in the background of the cartoon shows a similar map with all the countries under imperial British rule coloured in red. However, the map is no longer intact but has deep cracks. The cartoon depicts the British Empire as something that has declined and lost all its power.

In conclusion, while the map of 1886 glorifies the British Empire and British imperialism, the cartoon is critical of the British hanging on to their past that was shaped by global dominance. It mocks the British for their nostalgia about their former role in the world and expresses the need for them to move on and accept the decline of an empire that is old, broken, and long forgotten. This message can be linked to republican tendencies in some Commonwealth realms, like Jamaica and Australia, that still retain the British monarch as their head of state. This system is a remnant of past colonial times that seems outdated and should no longer be held on to.

### Mediation

This comment titled "Humour and 70 years of continuity" by Gabi Biesinger was published on a German news website in June 2022, shortly after the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the UK.

The comment points out that it is the Queen's personality and leadership style that keep her so popular as a monarch. Key factors are her sense of humour, her sense of duty, her sensitivity, and political neutrality.

Biesinger believes that people, even critics, respect Queen Elizabeth for her life-long service and dedication to the public. Although she has to stay neutral and doesn't have any real political power, the Queen manages to give speeches that are powerful in the way they convey values like solidarity and unity. In her speeches during the pandemic she showed tact and struck the right tone when politicians were helpless in times of a medical emergency.

The author also reminds her readers of the monarch's handling of her husband's funeral in 2021. She declined a Covid exemption offered to her that would have permitted her to invite more people than restrictions allowed. This showed her sensitivity and sense of solidarity and exemplifies how she manages to keep a close bond with her subjects, be it monarchists or republicans.

**(204 words)**

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