

The Queen's Birthdays

Why Does the Queen Celebrate Two Birthdays?

The tradition of two royal birthdays was started by George II in 1748. He was born in November and he felt that the weather would be too cold for his annual birthday parade on his actual birthday. A solution to this was to celebrate his birthday with a military parade, called Trooping the Colour, held every spring. This tradition has continued ever since – no matter what month the King or

Queen was born. This is the monarch's official birthday.



Earlier on in her reign, our Queen celebrated her official birthday on a Thursday, but it was later changed to the second Saturday in June. Other countries of the Commonwealth (nations in the world that The Queen reigns over) celebrate at different times too, but mostly during the months of May and June.

Royal Facts

1. **Name:** Elizabeth Alexandra Mary
2. **Born:** 21st April, 1926
3. **Job:** Queen Elizabeth II reigns as The Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and many of the Commonwealth countries.
4. The Queen celebrates two birthdays every year; one on April 21st (her actual birthday) and one on the second Saturday in June (her official birthday).
5. Since September 2015, Her Majesty is the United Kingdom's longest reigning monarch (king or queen). The Queen entered the record books as Britain's longest-reigning monarch after surpassing the reign of her great-great grandmother, Queen Victoria.



1. On what date was Queen Elizabeth born?

2. Which month is The Queen's actual birthday and which month is The Queen's official birthday?

3. Which queen did Queen Elizabeth II pass as longest reigning British monarch in September 2015? What relation was that queen to Queen Elizabeth II?

4. Why does The Queen celebrate two birthdays?

5. Why do you think The Queen's birthday celebrations were changed from a Thursday to a Saturday?

6. What are the three main locations for the Trooping the Colour parade? List them here.

7. Do you think there would be any disadvantages to having two birthdays? Give reasons for your answers.

8. Why do you think The Queen continued with the parade after she was shot at in 1981?

9. What are the titles called that separate each part of the fact file?

10. If you had to organise The Queen's birthday celebrations, plan three activities that she may enjoy. Give reasons for your choices.

