



Name: William I

Nickname: The Conqueror

House: The Normans

Ruled: 1066-1087 (21 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 58

Number of Children: 9

Top Fact: Defeated Harold Godwinson (Harold II) at the Battle of Hastings.

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Name: William II

Nickname: Rufus

House: The Normans

Ruled: 1087-1100 (13 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 31

Number of Children: 0

Top Fact: Killed by being shot in the back while hunting - possibly on the orders of his younger brother Henry, who then seized the throne.

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Name: Henry I

Nickname: Beauclerc ('Good Scholar')

House: The Normans

Ruled: 1100-1135 (35 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 31

Number of Children: 2

Top Fact: After Henry died, his daughter Matilda invaded England to win the crown back for her son Henry II.

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Name: Stephen

Nickname: Stephen of Blois

House: The Normans

Ruled: 1135-1154 (19 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 38

Number of Children: 5

Top Fact: Claimed a right to the throne as nephew of Henry I but was forced to name Henry II as his heir instead of his own children.

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Name: Henry II

Nickname: Henry of Anjou

House: The Plantagenets

Ruled: 1154-1189 (35 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 21

Number of Children: 8

Top Fact: In 1170, four knights murdered Archbishop Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral because they misunderstood words that Henry said in anger.

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Name: Richard I

Nickname: Richard the Lionheart

House: The Plantagenets

Ruled: 1189-1199 (10 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 32

Number of Children: 0

Top Fact: Spent most of his reign abroad, on a crusade to the Middle East and then fighting in France. His brother John unsuccessfully tried to seize power while he was away.

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Name: John

Nickname: John Lackland

House: The Plantagenets

Ruled: 1199-1216 (17 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 33

Number of Children: 5

Top Fact: Forced by rebellious barons to seal Magna Carta in 1215. Also partly responsible for losing the Crown Jewels in The Wash.

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Name: Henry III

Nickname: none

House: The Plantagenets

Ruled: 1216-1272 (56 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 9

Number of Children: 5

Top Fact: Established the first 'parliament' in 1236. It continued to evolve, with the first elected representatives being sent to Westminster in 1254.

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Name: Edward I

Nickname: Longshanks

House: The Plantagenets

Ruled: 1272-1307 (35 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 33

Number of Children: 19

Top Fact: Invaded and conquered Wales and built an 'iron ring' of castles to maintain power, including Conwy, Harlech, Caernarfon and Beaumaris castles.

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Name: Edward II

Nickname: Edward of Caernarvon

House: The Plantagenets

Ruled: 1307-1327 (20 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 23

Number of Children: 4

Top Fact: His queen, Isabella, invaded England and deposed Edward in favour of their teenage son.

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Name: Edward III

Nickname: Edward of Windsor

House: The Plantagenets

Ruled: 1327-1377 (50 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 14

Number of Children: 12, 13 or 14

Top Fact: It is thought that almost everyone with mainly British ancestry is probably descended from Edward III.

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Name: Richard II

Nickname: none

House: The Plantagenets

Ruled: 1377-1399 (22 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 10

Number of Children: 0

Top Fact: Grandson of Edward III. Forced to abdicate by his cousin, Henry Bolingbroke, who then became King Henry IV.

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Name: Henry IV
Nickname: Henry Bolingbroke
House: Lancaster
Ruled: 1399-1413 (14 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 33
Number of Children: 6

Top Fact: Had to contend with many rebellions, especially Welsh rebellions led by Owain Glyndwr. Was ill for much of his reign.

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Name: Henry V
Nickname: Henry of Monmouth
House: Lancaster
Ruled: 1413-1422 (9 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 26
Number of Children: 1

Top Fact: The first English king to read and write fluently in English (rather than French).

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Name: Henry VI
Nickname: none
House: Lancaster
Ruled: 1422-1461 (22 years) 1470-1471
Age at Start of Rule: 9 months
Number of Children: 1

Top Fact: As Henry was only a baby when he became king, a special council ran the country for him until he was 16.

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Name: Edward IV
Nickname: none
House: York
Ruled: 1461-1483 (22 years) - briefly deposed 1470-1471
Age at Start of Rule: 19
Number of Children: 7

Top Fact: Deposed Henry VI in 1461 then eventually had him murdered after Henry reclaimed the crown in 1470-71.

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Name: Edward V

Nickname: one of the 'Princes in the Tower'

House: York

Ruled: 1483 (2 months)

Age at Start of Rule: 12

Number of Children: 0

Top Fact: Held captive with his brother in the Tower of London by their uncle, Richard III. The boys soon disappeared, supposedly murdered.

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Name: Richard III

Nickname: none

House: York

Ruled: 1483-1485 (2 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 31

Number of Children: 1

Top Fact: Killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field, ending the Wars of the Roses. His remains were discovered under a car park in Leicester in 2012 and reburied in Leicester Cathedral in 2015.

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Name: Henry VII

Nickname: Henry Tudor

House: The Tudors

Ruled: 1485-1509 (24 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 28

Number of Children: 8

Top Fact: Henry married Elizabeth of York, the older sister of the Princes in the Tower. The Tudor rose is a mixture of the white rose of York and the red rose of Lancaster, symbolising their unity.

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Name: Henry VIII

Nickname: none

House: The Tudors

Ruled: 1509-1547 (38 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 18

Number of Children: 3

Top Fact: Henry had six wives. The first, Catherine of Aragon, was his brother Arthur's widow. By divorcing her, he became head of a newly independent, Protestant Church of England.

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Name: Edward VI
Nickname: none
House: The Tudors
Ruled: 1547-1553 (6 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 10
Number of Children: 0

Top Fact: Edward was determined not to let his half-sisters Mary and Elizabeth succeed him and nominated Lady Jane Grey and her heirs instead. However, he was ultimately unsuccessful.

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Name: Lady Jane Grey
Nickname: none
House: The Tudors
Ruled: 1553 (9 days)
Age at Start of Rule: 15
Number of Children: 0

Top Fact: Jane was proclaimed queen after Edward VI died, but his sister Mary had much more support and overturned Jane's succession after 9 days. Jane was executed for high treason.

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Name: Mary I
Nickname: Bloody Mary
House: The Tudors
Ruled: 1553-1558 (5 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 37
Number of Children: 0

Top Fact: A devout Catholic, Mary ordered the execution of hundreds of Protestants for heresy, hence her nickname.

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Name: Elizabeth I
Nickname: none
House: The Tudors
Ruled: 1558-1603 (45 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 25
Number of Children: 0

Top Fact: During Elizabeth's reign, England became even more of a global power with new wealth from kidnapping, enslaving and trading people from Africa.

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Name: James I (VI of Scotland)

Nickname: none

House: The Stuarts

Ruled: 1603-1625 (22 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 37

Number of Children: 3

Top Fact: James was already King of Scotland when he became King of England too. He survived the Gunpowder Plot designed to blow him up at the opening of Parliament in 1605.

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Name: Charles I

Nickname: none

House: The Stuarts

Ruled: 1625-1649 (24 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 25

Number of Children: 9

Top Fact: Charles insisted that God intended kings to be fully in charge and argued with his government. By 1642, this had degenerated into a civil war. Charles was defeated and executed.

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Name: Oliver Cromwell

Nickname: none

House: none

Ruled: 1653-1658 (5 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 54

Number of Children: 9

Top Fact: Until 1653, Oliver Cromwell was just the chairman of a council that ran the country. However, the army distrusted them so Oliver eventually had to rule as Lord Protector.

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Name: Richard Cromwell

Nickname: none

House: none

Ruled: 1658-1659 (1 year)

Age at Start of Rule: 32

Number of Children: 9

Top Fact: An army council who disagreed with Parliament forced Richard to step down. They made it possible for Charles II to be restored as king a year later.

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Name: Charles II
Nickname: The Merry Monarch
House: The Stuarts
Ruled: 1660-1685 (25 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 30
Number of Children: 0

Top Fact: Charles and his wife Catherine had no children of their own, but Charles had many children with other women - some people think he fathered up to 21!

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Name: James II (VII of Scotland)
Nickname: none
House: The Stuarts
Ruled: 1685-1688 (3 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 52
Number of Children: 4

Top Fact: English Protestants invited William - the husband of James's daughter Mary - to come from the Netherlands to depose the Catholic James. This is known as the Glorious Revolution.

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Name: William III / Mary II
Nickname: William of Orange / none
House: The Stuarts
Ruled: 1689-1702 (13 years) / 1689-1694 (5 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 39 / 27
Number of Children: 0

Top Fact: While William was in England, Mary stayed out of politics. However, he spent a lot of time abroad. In those periods, Mary ably governed the country alongside a council of advisers.

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Name: Anne
Nickname: none
House: The Stuarts
Ruled: 1702-1714 (12 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 37
Number of Children: 1 (died in childhood)

Top Fact: Anne oversaw the Act of Union, which made Scotland and England one country, ruled from London. People continue to argue that Scotland should become an independent country again.

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Name: George I

Nickname: none

House: Hanover

Ruled: 1714-1727 (13 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 54

Number of Children: 2

Top Fact: George was German but he was also the great-grandson of James I, which gave him a claim to the English throne.

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Name: George II

Nickname: none

House: Hanover

Ruled: 1727-1760 (33 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 44

Number of Children: 9

Top Fact: In 1752, Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar, which was more accurate than the previous Julian one. This meant that the date changed overnight from 2nd September to 14th September!

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Name: George III

Nickname: Mad King George

House: Hanover

Ruled: 1760-1820 (60 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 22

Number of Children: 16

Top Fact: George suffered from intermittent periods of insanity. These became worse towards the end of his life and his son was appointed regent to officially rule on his behalf until he died.

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Name: George IV

Nickname: none

House: Hanover

Ruled: 1820-1830 (10 years)

Age at Start of Rule: 58

Number of Children: 1

Top Fact: George was forced to marry his wife, Caroline. He hated her and refused to let her go to his coronation or be recognised as queen.

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Name: William IV
Nickname: The Sailor King
House: Hanover
Ruled: 1830-1837 (7 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 64
Number of Children: 0

Top Fact: William joined the Royal Navy aged 13. He had 10 children with an actress, but he was eventually forced to marry a princess. None of their children survived.

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Name: Victoria
Nickname: none
House: Hanover
Ruled: 1837-1901 (64 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 18
Number of Children: 9

Top Fact: Victoria was devoted to her husband, Prince Albert, and she went into mourning for the rest of her life when he died.

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Name: Edward VII
Nickname: Bertie
House: Saxe-Coburg-Gotha
Ruled: 1901-1910 (9 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 59
Number of Children: 6

Top Fact: Although Edward was always the heir to the throne, his mother, Queen Victoria, didn't let him take part in politics until he was over 50 years old.

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Name: George V
Nickname: none
House: Windsor
Ruled: 1910-1936 (26 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 44
Number of Children: 6

Top Fact: During the First World War, in 1917, George changed the family name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor to avoid all connections to Germany.

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Name: Edward VIII
Nickname: David
House: Windsor
Ruled: 1936 (10 months, 21 days)
Age at Start of Rule: 41
Number of Children: 0

Top Fact: Edward wanted to marry Wallis Simpson but the government forbade the marriage. As a result, Edward abdicated and passed the throne to his brother.

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Name: George VI
Nickname: Bertie (after his grandfather and great-grandfather)
House: Windsor
Ruled: 1936-1952 (15 years)
Age at Start of Rule: 40
Number of Children: 2

Top Fact: George never wanted to be king and had a speech difficulty that made it hard for him to address the nation. Nevertheless, he was very popular.

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Name: Elizabeth II
Nickname: Lilibet
House: Windsor
Ruled: 1952 - 2022 (70 years and 214 days)
Age at Start of Rule: 25
Number of Children: 4

Top Fact: Elizabeth reigned for longer than any other monarch. She was Queen in two different millennia!

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Name: Charles III
Nickname: none
House: Windsor
Ruled: 2022 - Present
Age at Start of Rule: 73
Number of Children: 2

Top Fact: Charles was the first British royal to earn a university degree. He attended Cambridge University and in 1970 he graduated with a degree in history, archaeology and anthropology.

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