

Before you watch**1 SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Answer the questions.

- 1 Have you ever visited a palace?
- 2 Where was it? Can you describe it?
- 3 Who lives there or used to live there?

Comprehension check**2**  Watch the DVD clip. Are the sentences true or false?

- 1 The Isle of Wight is off the south coast of England. **true / false**
- 2 Queen Victoria and her family used to stay there on holiday. **true / false**
- 3 Osborne House is the near the sea. **true / false**
- 4 Queen Victoria's father designed Osborne House. **true / false**
- 5 The Royal Family still uses Osborne House today. **true / false**

3  Watch again. Tick the things that you see.

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| a bedroom | <input type="checkbox"/> | g steps | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b dining room | <input type="checkbox"/> | h path | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c desks | <input type="checkbox"/> | i lawn | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d bathroom | <input type="checkbox"/> | j shutters | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e mirror | <input type="checkbox"/> | k pond | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f flower bed | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

4  Watch again. Number the events (A–F) in the order that they happened.

- A ___ Queen Victoria married Prince Albert.
- B ___ Victoria was born.
- C ___ Queen Victoria died.
- D ___ Osborne House was built.
- E ___ Victoria became queen at the age of eighteen.
- F ___ Prince Albert died.

Round up**5 SPEAKING** Work in groups. Answer the questions.

Would you like to visit Osborne House? Why? / Why not? If so, what would you like to see?

Vocabulary

6 RECYCLE Choose the correct words.

- 1 We live in a **lively** / **spacious** part of London with lots of restaurants, theatres and shops nearby.
- 2 The builders **restored** / **located** the 16th century farmhouse beautifully.
- 3 Our living room is small, but really **remote** / **cosy**, especially when we light a fire.
- 4 My parents love living in the countryside. It's so **peaceful** / **impressive** being away from the city.
- 5 It's a very **tiny** / **spacious** modern apartment with a large living room and three bedrooms.
- 6 The beautiful Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna is one of the most **impressive** / **dilapidated** palaces in Europe.

7 Complete the text with the words below.

descendants era monarchs reigned

King Henry VIII

Henry VIII is one of the most famous ¹_____ who ever ²_____ in England. He was a member of the Tudor family, and he became king in 1509 at the age of seventeen. He ruled until his death in 1547. During his reign he married six wives, and had three children: Mary I, Elizabeth I, and Edward VI. After Henry's death, neither Edward nor Mary reigned for very long, but Elizabeth became one of the most popular queens in English history and reigned for 45 years. Unfortunately, none of Henry's children had any ³_____, and after Elizabeth's death the Tudor ⁴_____ ended.

Extension

8 Work in groups. Discuss these questions.

- Do you think it is a good idea for a country to be ruled by a monarch? Why? / Why not?
- Apart from their role in government, what other benefits do you think a king or queen gives to a country?
- Who would you prefer to have as the head of your country: a monarch or a president? Why?

9 Present and discuss your findings with the class. Use the key phrases for expressing opinions and gaining time.

Expressing opinions

I believe / don't believe that ...
It seems to me that ...
As I see it, ...

Phrases for gaining time

Let me see. I'd have to give that some thought.
That's a difficult question, but a very good one.
Actually, now I come to think about it, ...
Well, thinking about it, ...

DVD clip summary

The DVD clip is about Osborne House, the holiday home of Queen Victoria and her family, which is on the Isle of Wight, off the south coast of England.

Background

In October 1845, Queen Victoria and her husband, the German Prince Albert, bought Osborne House as a holiday home and an escape from the pressures of life in London. Queen Victoria knew the area well and had been to the Isle of Wight as a young girl. The original Osborne House was too small for the needs of the royal family: they already had four of their nine children. Between 1845 and 1851, they demolished the original house and built a new, much larger one. Inspired by the view, which Albert said reminded him of the Bay of Naples, the new house was designed in the Italian Renaissance style.

Before you watch

Exercise 1

- Read the questions with the class and elicit answers from individual students. Encourage the students to expand on their answers and use their suggestions to start a class discussion.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Comprehension check

Exercise 2

- **Pre-watching:** Go through the questions with the students.
-  Play the whole DVD clip. The students choose the correct answers. Check their answers.
- **Answers:** 1 true 2 true 3 true 4 false 5 false

Exercise 3

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to read the list and to try and remember which things they saw in the DVD clip.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** b, c, e, f, g, h, i

Exercise 4

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to try and order the events before they watch the DVD clip again.
- **Weaker classes:** Play the DVD clip first and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 B 2 E 3 A 4 D 5 F 6 C

Round up

Exercise 5

- Put the students in groups. Give them a few minutes to discuss the questions.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

Vocabulary

Exercise 6

- The students read the sentences and choose the correct words.
- **Weaker classes:** Elicit the meanings of the adjectives in bold before the students choose the correct words.
- **Answers:** 1 lively 2 restored 3 cosy 4 peaceful 5 spacious 6 impressive

Exercise 7

- Ask the students to read through the text first, then complete the sentences. With a **weaker class**, you could elicit the meanings of the words first.
- **Answers:** 1 monarchs 2 reigned 3 descendants 4 era

Extension

Exercise 8

- **Materials needed:** None
- **Preparation:** Put the students in groups of three. Tell them that they are going to discuss some questions about monarchies.
- **Language:** Elicit what the students do when they need time to think what to say. Then focus on the key phrases.
- **Activity:** Ask the students to nominate one note-taker in the group. Give the students 5–8 minutes to talk about the questions and make notes. Finally, give them another 2 minutes to prepare what they are going to say. Then ask them to discuss the questions as a class. Encourage them to ask more questions.
- **Extension:** After all the groups have presented, ask the students to vote on whether or not they would like a monarch in their country. For homework, you could ask them to write an essay on the pros and cons of a monarchy.

Queen Victoria and Osborne House

Osborne House is a large and charming royal palace on the Isle of Wight, a small island off the south coast of England. It's one of the best known houses in the country, famous for its Italian-style architecture, elegant rooms and incredible works of art. But it's most famous for its original residents: Queen Victoria and her family.

Queen Victoria is one of the most famous monarchs in British history. She was born on 24 May 1819. She became queen in 1837, when she was just eighteen years old, and reigned until she died in 1901. In 1840, she married the German Prince Albert, and it was Albert who first decided to build Osborne House in 1845.

At the time, the Royal Family lived in Buckingham Palace in London. It was a beautiful and impressive palace, but they had very little privacy in the capital, so Albert built Osborne House as a holiday home for his wife and children.

The queen loved Osborne House immediately. It was in an incredible location with stunning views over the river Solent to England, and unlike other royal palaces, which were often used for business, Osborne House was a family home.

This is the first floor of the household wing. The family's bedrooms were here and Victoria and Albert had their own living rooms, where they could read, relax and play music together.

In the evenings, the family often spent time together here in the small but cosy Greeting Room.

They ate in the magnificent dining room, which was on the ground floor of the household wing, and when they had guests, they spent time here, in the spacious State Room.

Outside the house, the gardens were beautiful. Albert planted lots of trees here, and there were many rare plants from all over the world.

The family spent a lot of time outside and Victoria adored the Isle of Wight. After all, it was much more peaceful and far less lively than the centre of London. The Royal Family enjoyed some of their happiest times at Osborne House, and when Albert died in 1861 Victoria continued to come here, remembering her beloved husband in the house he had designed. In fact, it was in Osborne House that Queen Victoria died in 1901.

Over a century later, Victoria is still one of the most influential monarchs in British history. Today, the Queen of England, the King of Norway and the King and Queen of Spain are all descendants of Victoria and Albert.

Osborne House doesn't belong to the Royal Family any more, but it has been beautifully restored and is now a popular tourist attraction. Visitors come here to experience how the Royal Family lived. They can see the luxury they enjoyed and admire the beautiful objects they owned. But Osborne House also reveals the personal side of the royals, bringing their intimate family life alive.

Osborne House might not be a royal palace today, but it still represents the Victorian era and is a monument to the queen herself. It shows that over a hundred years after her death, Queen Victoria still fascinates people in Britain and all over the world.