

HISTORY'S GREATEST HITS

You can visit **Queen Victoria's** seaside retreat, **Osborne House**, on the **Isle of Wight!**

ALL ABOUT

QUEEN VICTORIA

During this monarch's 63-year reign, Britain changed enormously, from a mostly rural country to a modern industrialised nation...

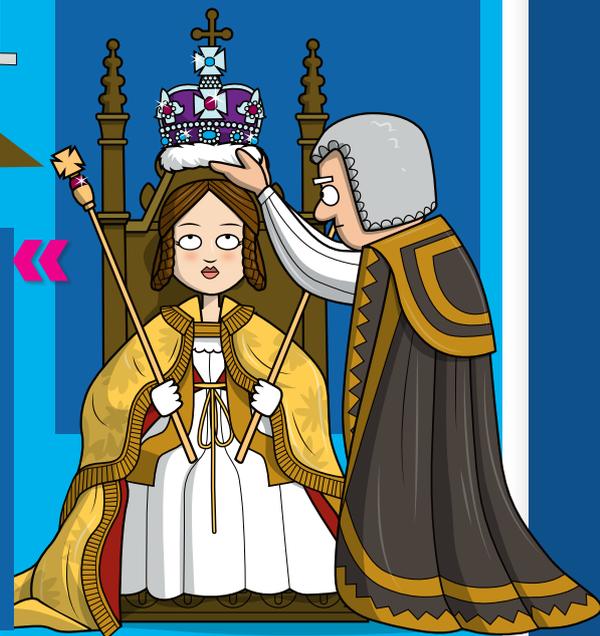
1819

Queen Victoria was born on **24 May 1819** in **Kensington Palace, London**. She was baptised **Alexandrina Victoria**, but her family nickname was '**Drina!** **Fifth in line** to the throne, Victoria spoke **German** at home and learned many other languages including **French, Italian** and **Latin** – she didn't speak **English** until she was **three!** She had a strict, "**dreary**" childhood but loved **painting, music** and playing with her **pets**.



1837

After a string of **royal deaths**, Victoria became next in line to the throne. And in **1837**, aged just **18**, she was crowned **Queen of the British Empire**. It was the biggest empire the world had ever seen, including **Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa** and later **India**.



1840

ER, WHAT'S THIS ONE'S NAME?

Victoria met the love of her life in **1836**, her **German cousin Albert**. Three years later **Victoria proposed**, and they married in **1840**. Victoria wore a **white dress** at her wedding, starting a **tradition** that many brides still follow today. The pair went on to have nine children – **Victoria, Edward, Alice, Alfred, Helena, Louise, Arthur, Leopold** and **Beatrice**.



1842-61

Victoria spoke to Albert in his native **German** and the pair shared a **very close relationship**. They spent many **happy summers** together in their seaside retreat, **Osborne House** on the **Isle of Wight**. In **1842**, Victoria became the **first monarch to travel by train** (in a carriage furnished with **velvet sofas, silk curtains** and, later, a **loo!**). Sadly, when Albert died in **1861**, Victoria became so **depressed** that she wore **black** for the **rest of her life**.

1861-1901

For years after Albert's death Victoria rarely appeared in public. But, when she eventually returned to public life, the country hosted huge parties where people celebrated her **Golden** and **Diamond Jubilees** (50 and 60 years as Queen). But she wasn't popular with everyone – there were **eight attempts to assassinate** her! Somehow, she survived them all!



1901

By the time she died on **22 January 1901**, Victoria had become the **longest ruling monarch in British history** (she's since been overtaken by our current queen **Elizabeth II**). Many of her children and grandkids married into other famous royal families, earning her the nickname '**The Grandmother of Europe**'. Although she was just **150cm (4ft 9in)** tall (the height of the average 12-year-old), Victoria's legacy casts a long shadow over history!