The King’s Coronation

Be a part of history and celebrate!
A coronation is a ceremony in which a monarch is formally invested of their regal powers. It involves crowns, robes, music, traditions … and celebrations!

This Coronation is especially exciting because it is the first coronation of a monarch to take place in the United Kingdom since that of the late Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 – that’s 70 years ago!
How have people celebrated Coronations in the past?

Over the centuries, there have been many ways in which coronations have involved the people of the nation, with people coming together to take part in history and celebrate in lots of different ways, from processions to parties.
Processions on foot...

This engraving shows the coronation procession of King James II, in 1685. It shows the many, many people involved in this procession, in their spectacular robes.

Can you find the King in this image?
... and by coach ...

Tableau of the Procession at the Queen’s Coronation
Robert Tyas, RCIN 813070
... special decorations...

Triumphal Arches

The Entertainment of His Most Excellent Majestie Charles II, 1662
John Ogilby, RCIN 1046719

The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II
2 June 1953
RCIN 2002682
... special decorations...

Fireworks and floodlights

Coronation Floodlighting, Edinburgh, May 1937
RCIN 2917521

Fireworks add to London's illuminations on Coronation night
2 June 1953
RCIN 2584773
‘Illuminated Bus’, Portsmouth, May 1937
RCIN 2917471
... special decorations...

Creative crowns

Princes Gardens, Edinburgh, May 1937, RCIN 2917511

‘The Centre’, Swindon, RCIN 2917507
... special decorations...

Queen Street, Exeter, May 1937
RCIN 2917500

Banners and bunting

The Banner, London,
May 1937
RCIN 2917443
How many different types of decorations can you see in this image?

Decorations, N.W. London, May 1937
RCIN 2917446
Banquets in palaces...

The Banquet at the Coronation of George IV, 1821–2
George Jones
RCIN 404463
... and dinners in halls ...

The King’s Coronation Dinner to the People, 5 July 1902
RCIN 2301735
... and parties in the street!
Travel through television

Queen Elizabeth II approaching the Throne Chair before the Coronation ceremony, 1953
Press photo
RCIN 2584764
Special souvenirs
How to celebrate!

His Majesty The King will hold many events this year to celebrate his Coronation and that of The Queen Consort. These celebrations will include:

- The Coronation ceremony
- A special concert for thousands of people to attend
- The Coronation Big Lunch
- The Big Help Out

And, this year, you are all part of this special moment in history! How will you celebrate?
THE QUEEN. RECOLLECTIONS OF THE CORONATION, dated 1838
RCIN 980021
Recording History

How might you record this historic moment in time? You could:

- **Keep a diary** – make sure to record any events, activities or special occasions you take part in this year for the Coronation
- **Take photographs** – you might see (or take part in) a parade or party, or visit a special place this year
- **Start a Coronation scrap book** – scrap books can include many things like tickets, photographs, memories, postcards, drawings.
- **Create a Coronation film** – are you a budding film-maker? Why not capture events or create your own film on the Coronation theme!
- **Make a time capsule** – like a scrap book this can contain many objects, and it can be physical or digital
Celebrate!

- **Hold a Coronation Street Party in your school**
  - Make sure to include garden party games, a royal menu, special invitations and, of course, decorations such as bunting and banners. Perhaps you could try to create natural decorations, inspired by the example of the floral crown in Edinburgh’s Princes Gardens?
- **Create your own Coronation Art Gallery**
  - Take inspiration from the tales of coronations past and make your very own works of art to commemorate this occasion. Why not hold an exhibition in your school hall?