

# Queen Victoria

## Longest Reign

Queen Victoria reigned as queen for just over 63 years and 7 months. At the time, this made her the longest reigning British monarch, but she has since been overtaken by Queen Elizabeth II.

## Victoria's Life



Victoria was **born in London in 1819** to her parents, Edward (son of King George III) and Victoria of Saxe-Coburg. Her father died when she was very young and she had no brothers or sisters. Her **upbringing was strict and lonely**. As she grew older, her mother tried to prepare her for the possibility of becoming queen one day by making sure she **received a good education** and knew what ruling a country might entail. Her mother helped her **to see how ordinary people lived their lives** by taking her on a tour of England. Victoria was **very clever and learned to speak**

**in many different languages**. She was a gifted painter. She also enjoyed **writing in her journal**, which she did every day from being a teenager until her death.

## Becoming Queen

Victoria **became queen when she was 18 years old** in June 1837. Although some people thought she was too young to be a powerful ruler, Victoria was a strong character and brought a **renewed sense of energy** and determination to the British monarchy. Three years later, **Victoria married Prince Albert**, who went on to help her run the country. **Victoria and Albert had 9 children**: Victoria, Edward, Alice, Alfred, Helena, Louise, Arthur, Leopold and Beatrice. By the time she died, Victoria also had 40 grandchildren and 37 great grandchildren! Victoria took her duties as queen very seriously. Every week she held **long meetings with the prime minister** to discuss what was happening in her kingdom. Her reign is regarded as **a time of growth and prosperity**, as it was a time when Great Britain became **the largest empire in the world**.

## Later Life

Two terrible things happened in 1861, when Victoria was 42 years old. First **Victoria's mother died** and then later in the same year **her beloved husband Albert died too**. Queen Victoria **grieved heavily for Albert**. From that day on, **she dressed in black** clothes to show that she was in mourning and continued to do this for the rest of her life. For a while she was too sad to engage in her duties as queen, but after some time she returned and focused on growing the British Empire. She also **created a number of memorials to her husband, like the Royal Albert Hall**. When Victoria herself **died in 1901 at the age of 81**, she was buried next to her husband. Many British people were very sad when she died because **she had been such a popular queen**.

