

The Royal Family



The Royal Family

Yesterday you learned that kings and queens are leaders that come from royal families. They are the most important and powerful people in their kingdoms, kings and queens and the members of their royal families always got the best of everything. They got the best of everything just for being born into a royal family.

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During the read aloud, you will learn all about royal families. You will learn about what life was like for the children of royal families, who are called princes and princesses. Authors often give reasons to support the points they make in a read aloud. Listen carefully to hear the reasons this author gives for why there were good and not so good things about being a child in a royal family.

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Most kings and queens wanted to make sure they had lots of children, and they made sure those children understood what it meant to be part of the royal family. Being a prince or princess had both advantages and disadvantages.

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Advantages means that there are good things about being in a royal family. Disadvantages means that there are some not so good things about being in a royal family.

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This picture shows King George V of England, the queen, and four of their sons. As you can see, children in the royal family got to wear fancy clothing. They lived with their parents in the palace, which gave them plenty of space to run and play.

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Fine furniture and other beautiful things always surrounded them.

For many kings and queens, having children was not just a matter of wanting to raise a family. In fact, children were the key to the future prosperity and success of the kingdom.

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Children were important to the wealth and good fortune of a kingdom. By why were children so important?

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Once a person became king, he usually remained king for the rest of his life. The period of time during which he ruled was called a king's reign. The same is true for a queen who sits on the throne.

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What's a king's or queen's reign? Is this the kind of reign we are talking about when we say, "It's raining outside?"

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And when that king died, his reign ended, and one of the children from the royal family became the new ruler.

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When you inherit something, it means that someone else, usually a relative, gives you something that once belonged to them.

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Often, when a person dies, their property--the things they own, including their belongings and money--are passed on to family members, who then inherit these things.

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This is what happened in kingdoms when the ruling king or queen died: their power--the right to sit on the throne and wear the crown--was passed on to someone else in the family.

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Royal families always wanted children so the power to rule the kingdom stayed in their family. If there were no children, sometimes the power to rule the kingdom went to a different family.

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Someone who inherits something is called an heir. In a kingdom, princes and princesses were heirs to the throne, because they were to inherit the throne.

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The oldest son, the one most likely to be heir to the throne, is called the crown prince. When we are talking about the crown prince as the heir to the throne, are we talking about someone who becomes the king or are we talking about the air we breathe?

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He is called the crown prince because he is the next person to wear the king's crown and rule the kingdom. If there is no son, the oldest daughter is the crown princess because she will be the next person to wear the crown and rule the kingdom.

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Remember that the crown is a symbol of power and that whoever wears it is in charge.

This photograph shows King George V of England, the queen, and four of their sons. The oldest of the sons is the crown prince because he will be the next king.

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The adults treat him with great respect, even though he is only a teenager. People hold doors for him and bow to him because he has the important status of being the next king. He has grown up having people serve him and tell him that he is important.

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What is the next king called? Yes, the next king is called the crown prince or the heir to the throne.

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This is a picture of a palace in a country called Morocco.



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Inside this big, beautiful palace lives a crown prince name Moulay Hassan. He lives with his father, mother, and little sister. His father is the king of Morocco. Moulay was born in 2003 and is the oldest son of the king.

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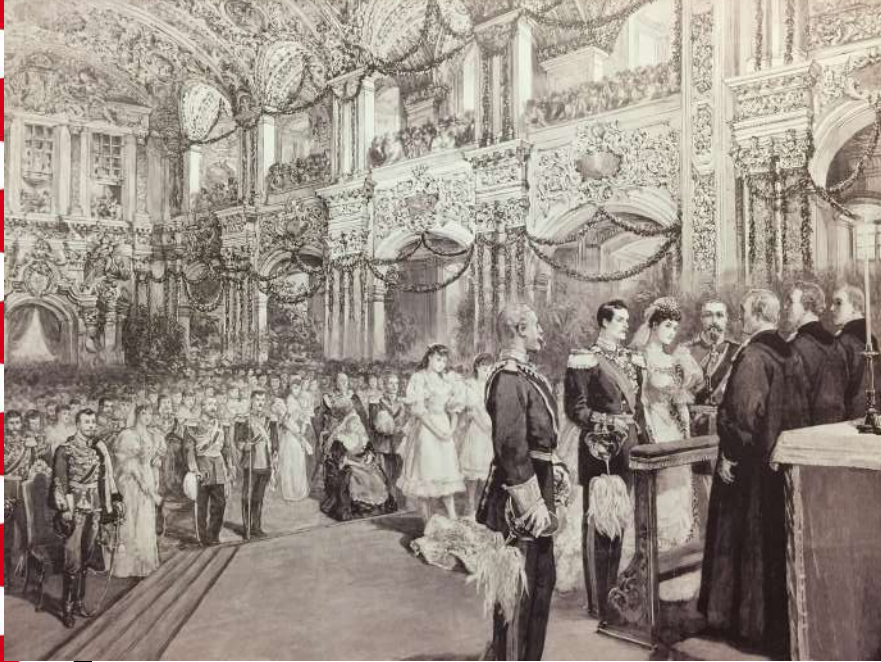
What is he called if he is the oldest son and next in line to be king?

Moulay will be the next king of Morocco because he is the oldest son and the crown prince of Morocco.

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The Royal Family



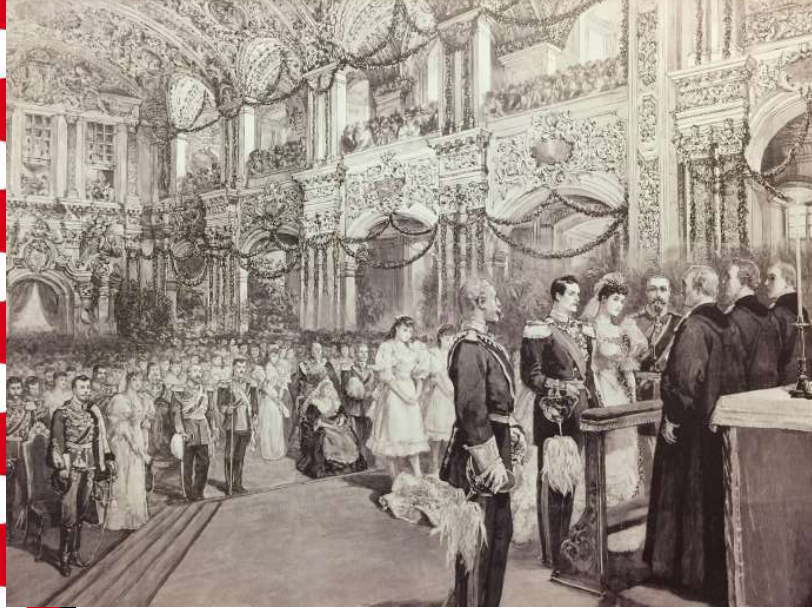
What do you see
happening in this
picture?

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The crown prince or princess is a very important member of the royal family, and he or she receives special education and extra special care in order to someday rule the kingdom.

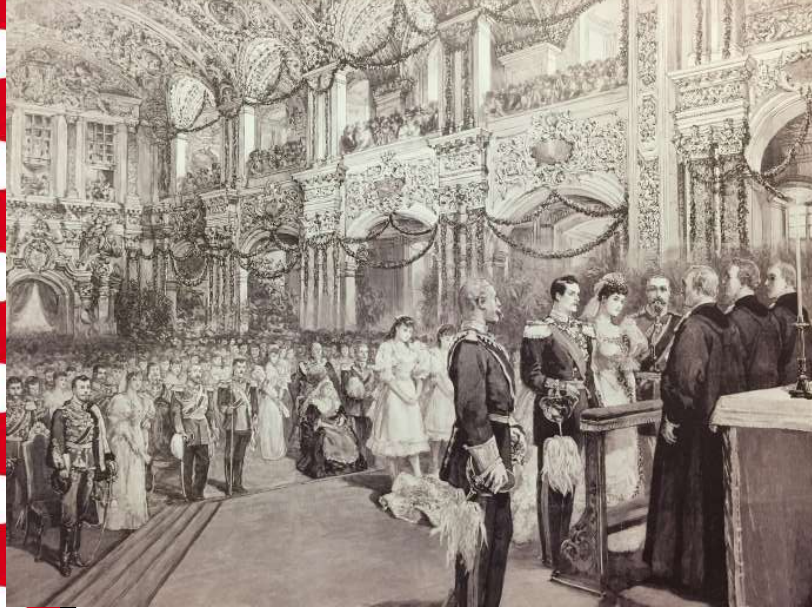
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But what happens to the other princes and princesses, those who are not the oldest and heirs to the throne?

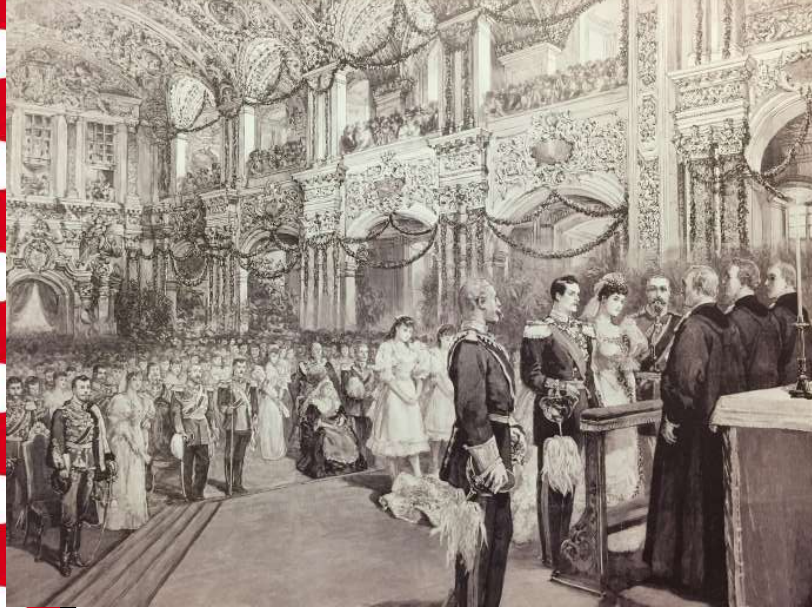
Remember the heir to the throne is the son or daughter who will become the next queen or king.

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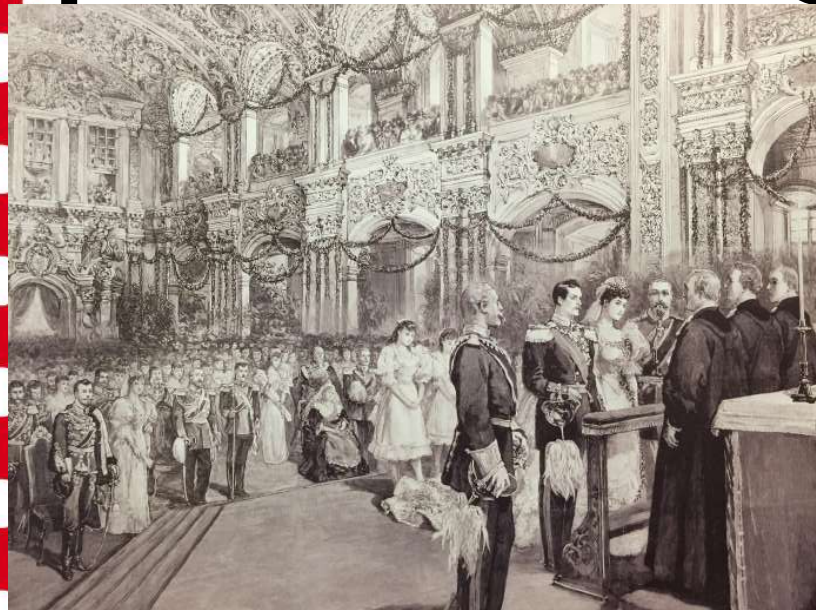
Kings and queens often arranged marriages for their children. This meant that princes and princesses usually did not get to choose whom they were going to marry--their parents decided for them!

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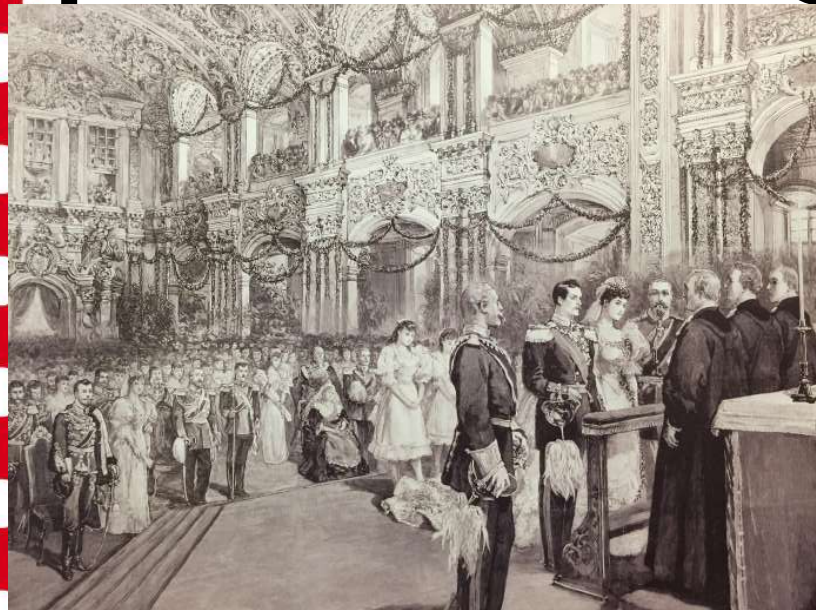
This was because marriage was used as a way to form a partnership between two kingdoms, or a way for two kingdoms to rule together as a team.

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When a prince or princess married someone from another kingdom--as in this picture of a wedding between a princess from England and a prince from Germany--it was an important event. All the most important people from those two kingdoms were invited because it meant that those kingdoms were going to be friends in the future.

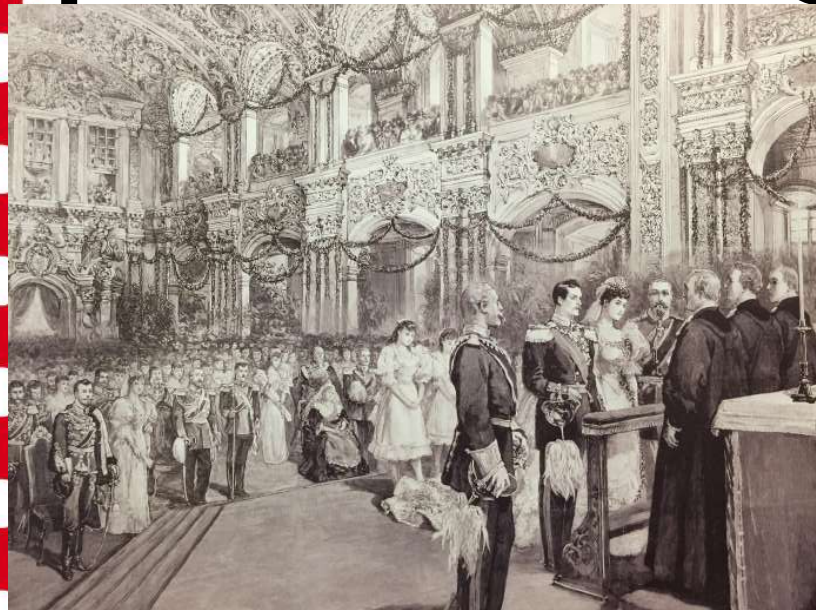
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There were definitely advantages to being a member of the royal family, especially for those who liked living in palaces and wearing nice clothes.

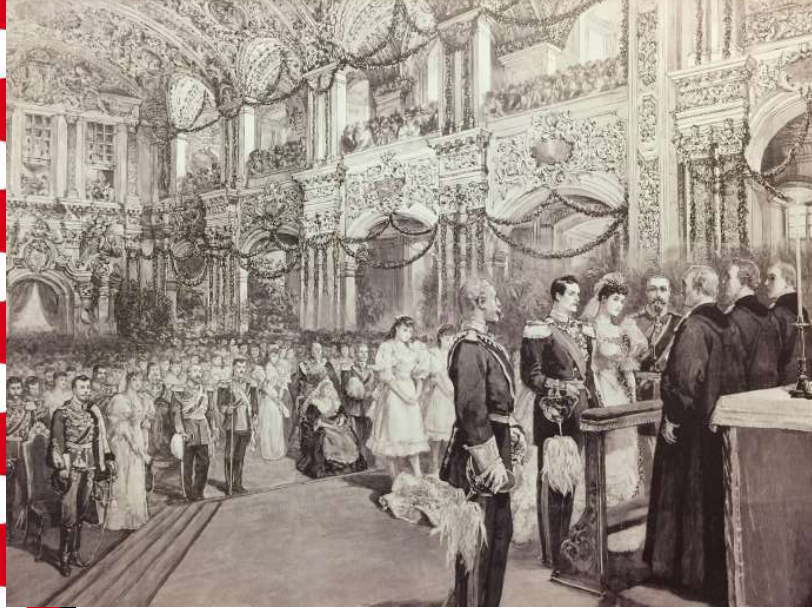
Do you remember what advantages are? What are disadvantages?

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But being a prince or princess wasn't all fun and games. Some disadvantages include that they didn't always get to do whatever they wanted, especially when it came to whom they would marry. Often, anything they did was watched and commented on by others.

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Everything they did reflected on the kingdom and the royal family, and they had to be careful to behave in a royal manner at all times.

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Comprehension Questions:

Literal

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

In a royal family, what is the mom called?
What is the daughter called? What is the
son called?

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Comprehension Questions:

Literal

PLEASE answer in
COMPLETE sentences.

What is a crown prince or an “heir to the throne”?

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Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

Why was it very important for a king or queen to have a child?

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Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

Sometimes kingdoms formed partnerships by making a connection or becoming friends with another kingdom. How were partnerships made between kingdoms?

Word Work

Explicit Vocabulary Instruction

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In the read aloud you heard, "Being a prince or princess had both **advantages** and disadvantages."

Say the word **advantages** with me.
Whisper advantages to the ceiling.
Whisper advantages to your neighbor.
Let's clap it out.

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Advantages are the good things about a situation.

Some advantages to being an older brother or sister may be doing things that the younger one cannot do yet, like staying up late sometimes.

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Tell me about some other things that might be advantages about being the oldest brother or sister in a family. Try to use the word advantages when you tell about them.

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*What's the word we have been talking
about?*

Let's clap it out.

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The opposite of the word advantages is the word disadvantages. If something has disadvantages, that means there are things that are not good about it. For example, one of the disadvantages to being a big brother or sister is that parents expect the oldest to show good behavior for younger brothers or sisters.

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I am going to name a few things that may be advantages, or good things, about being in kindergarten and some things that may be disadvantages, or bad things about being in kindergarten. If what I say is a good thing, say advantage and raise your hand to explain why. If what I say is a bad thing, or disadvantage, say so and raise your hand to explain why.

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Being the youngest in school

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Learning how to read

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Riding the school bus

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Being the oldest in your family