



The Royal Family

2_A

Introducing the Read-Aloud

10 minutes

What Have We Already Learned?

Review with students that kings and queens are leaders that come from royal families. As 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.

What Do We Know?

Create a two-column chart on chart paper, with one column labeled “Our Families” and the other column labeled “Royal Families.” Tell students to think about their families, specifically where they live, what they do during the day, and the family members and pets that may live with them. Explain that you are going to write down what students say, but they are not expected to be able to read what you have written because they are still learning all the rules for decoding. Emphasize that you are writing what they say so that you don’t forget and that you will read the words to them.

Students can finish filling in this first column during the Extension activity if more time is needed. The class will complete the second column on royal families during the Extension activity.

Purpose for Listening

During the read-aloud today, students will learn all about royal families. They will especially 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.



The Royal Family

← Show image 2A-1: King George V and family

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**.¹

This picture shows King George V of England, the queen, and four of their sons.² 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. 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.³ But why were children so important?

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**.⁴ And when that king died, his reign ended, and one of the children from the royal family became the new ruler.

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

1 *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.

2 [Point to the image.]

3 Children were important to the wealth and good fortune of a kingdom.

4 The same is true for a queen who sits on the throne. 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"?

- 5 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?

- 6 [Point to the oldest son in the image.]

- 7 What is the next king called? (The next king is called the crown prince or the heir to the throne.)



← **Show image 2A-2: Palace in Morocco**

- 8 [Point to Morocco on a map. Then point to Africa and tell students that Morocco is a country located on the continent of Africa.]

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



← **Show image 2A-3: Royal wedding**¹⁰

- 10 What do you see happening in this picture?

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

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. The oldest son, the one most likely to be heir to the throne, is called the **crown prince**.⁵ 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 called the crown princess because she will be the next person to wear the crown and rule the kingdom. 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.⁶ The oldest of the sons is the crown prince because he will be the next king. 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 very important.⁷

This is a picture of a palace in a country called Morocco.⁸ Inside this big, beautiful palace lives a crown prince named 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.⁹ Moulay will be the next king of Morocco because he is the oldest son and the crown prince of Morocco.

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. But what happens to the other princes and princesses, those who are not the oldest and heirs to the throne?¹¹

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! 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.

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.¹²

12 [Show the location of England and Germany on a map.]

There were definitely advantages to being a member of the royal family, especially for those who liked living in palaces and wearing nice clothes.¹³ 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. 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.

13 Do you remember what advantages are? What are disadvantages?

Discussing the Read-Aloud

15 minutes

Comprehension Questions

10 minutes

If students have difficulty responding to questions, reread pertinent passages of the read-aloud and/or refer to specific images. If students give one-word answers and/or fail to use the read-aloud or domain vocabulary in their response, acknowledge correct responses by expanding students' responses, using richer and more complex language. Ask students to answer in complete sentences by having them restate the question in their responses.

1. *Literal* In a royal family, what is the mom called? What is the daughter called in a royal family? What is the son called in a royal family? (In a royal family, the mom is called the queen, the daughter is called the princess, and the son is called the prince.)
2. *Literal* What is a crown prince or an "heir to the throne"? (A crown prince or an heir to the throne is the next king or queen to rule the kingdom.)