

Coronation ceremony assembly



Information for teachers

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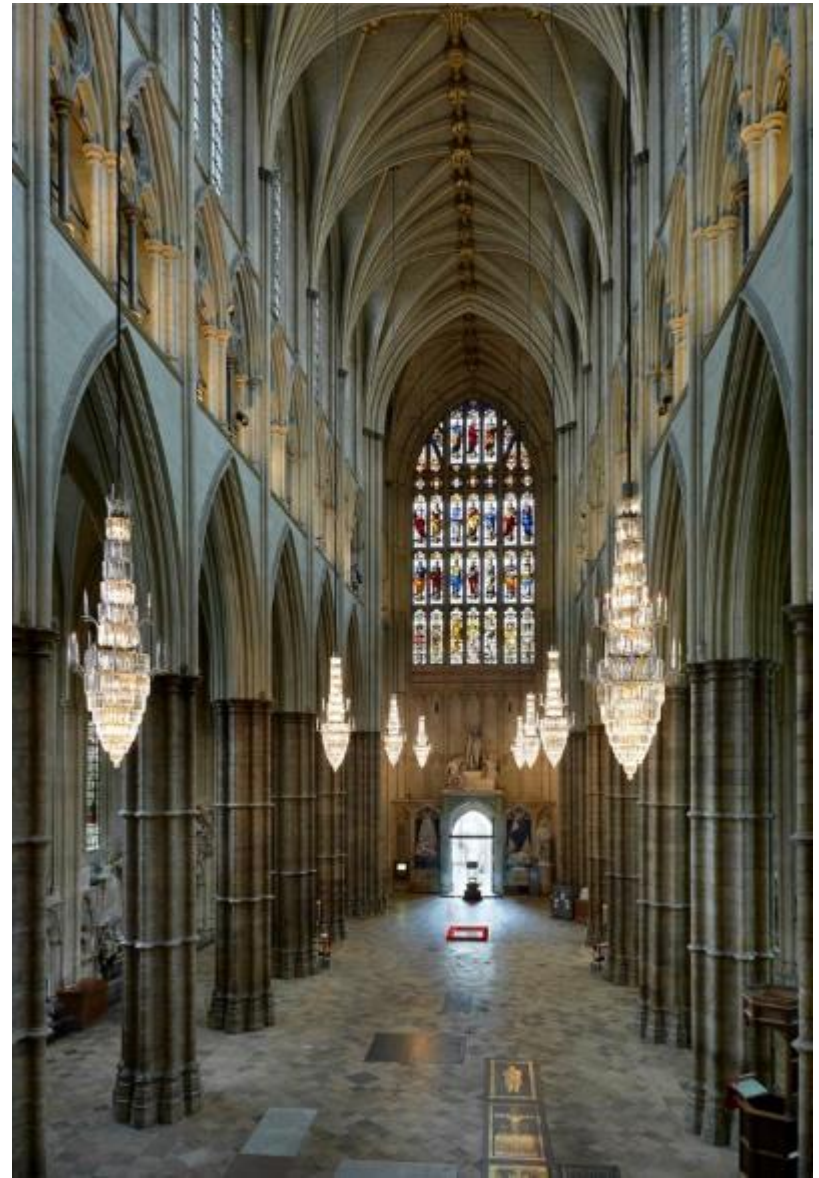
Westminster Abbey

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Westminster Abbey

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Westminster Abbey is the coronation church – what is a coronation?





What is a coronation?

A **coronation** is a special ceremony where a new king or queen is crowned.



It is an important religious ceremony that focuses on the duty of the monarch towards God and the people.



The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place on the 2nd June 1953, almost 14 months after she had become Queen.

The coronation ceremony hasn't changed much in 1,000 years. Since 1066, all coronations have taken place at Westminster Abbey.

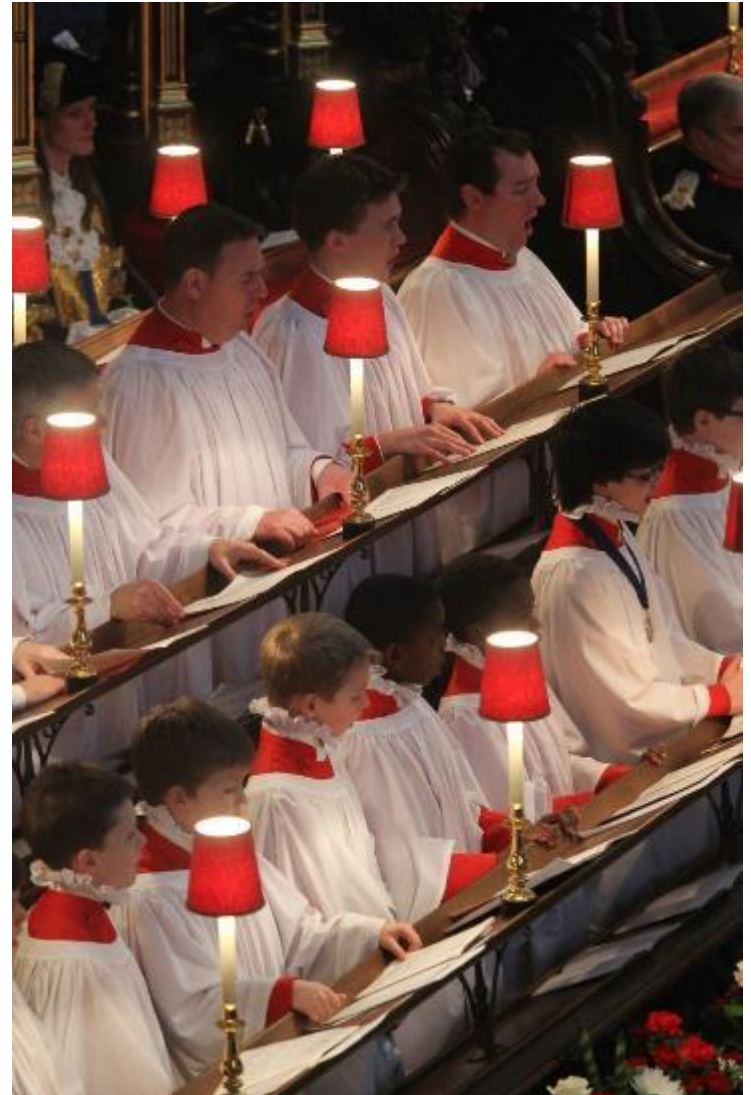




What happens in a coronation ceremony?



The king or queen arrives at Westminster Abbey and the choir sing.



The Recognition and Oath



The coronation begins with the new king or queen being presented to the people, and then swearing an oath to uphold the law and the Church.





The anointing



The Archbishop of Canterbury pours holy oil into a spoon, and uses the oil to make the sign of a cross on the monarch's forehead, hands, and heart. This is called **anointing**.

The anointing is the most important part of a coronation ceremony.

The king or queen sits in the Coronation Chair. The Chair is over 700 years old.



The Investing



The monarch is presented with the regalia, sometimes referred to as the Crown Jewels.

A sword is presented to represent the monarch's role as Head of the Armed Forces. Then they are given the orb, a symbol of God's power. Next they are given a ring, a symbol of their marriage to the nation. And finally, they are given two sceptres – a sign of kingly power but also mercy.



The Crowning



The Archbishop of Canterbury crowns the monarch with the St. Edward's crown.



Everyone in the Abbey cries
“God Save the King/Queen!”

Enthronement and Homage



The monarch leaves the Coronation Chair and moves to sit in the throne.

Then the act of homage takes place. The monarch's subjects must kneel and promise to serve the king or queen faithfully.

The monarch then receives Holy Communion.

The Closing Procession

The monarch processes out of the Abbey wearing the Imperial State Crown, and carrying the orb and the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross.

The National Anthem is sung as they leave.



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