

# The Queen's Birthday



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# Queen Elizabeth II

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1926.

Since her coronation, The Queen has celebrated two birthdays each year. Her actual birthday is in April but her official birthday is usually the second Saturday in June.

Can you work out when The Queen's official birthday will take place this year?



# Two Birthdays Tradition

The tradition of two royal birthdays was started by George II in 1748. He was born in November and felt that the weather would be too cold for his annual birthday parade on his actual birthday.

A solution was to celebrate his birthday again at a warmer time of year and hold the parade on this date.

This became known as the monarch's official birthday.

The birthday parade is called Trooping the Colour and the tradition still continues today on The Queen's official birthday in June.





# Trooping the Colour

Many members of the Royal Family attend the spectacular Trooping the Colour. It moves between Buckingham Palace, the Mall and Horse Guards Parade, then back again.

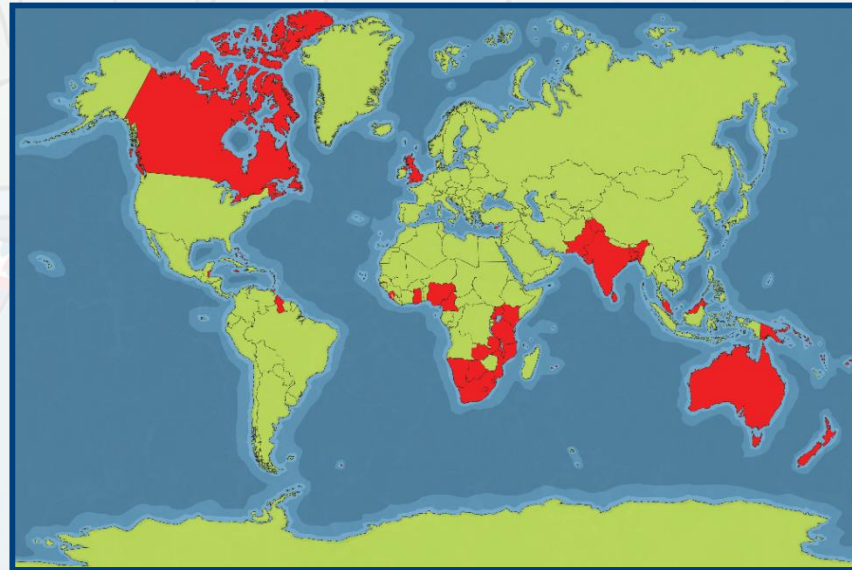
Watch the video to find out more about this military tradition.



# The Queen's Official Birthday

Before celebrating her official birthday on the second Saturday in June, she celebrated it on a Thursday.

Other countries in the Commonwealth (nations in the world that The Queen reigns over) celebrate at different times too but mostly during the months of May or June.

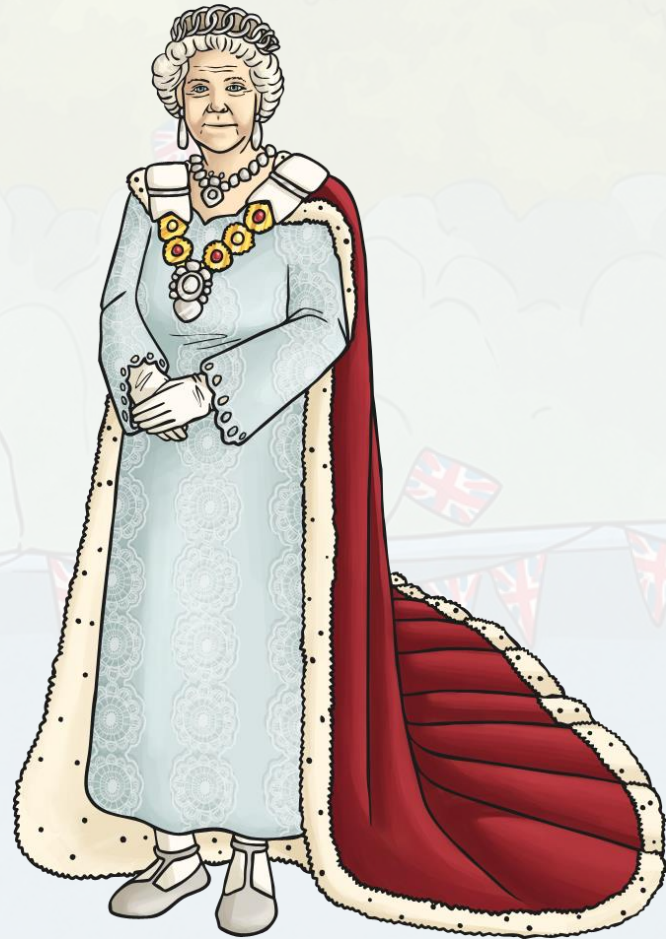




# The Queen's Official Birthday

Her Majesty's list of 'Birthday Honours' is also announced at the time of the official birthday celebrations.

The Queen's Birthday Honours recognise the achievements of a wide range of extraordinary people across the United Kingdom with awards, such as knighthoods, OBEs (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) and MBEs (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire).



# How Does She Celebrate Her Real Birthday?

The Queen celebrates her actual birthday privately, with her family and close friends.

The occasion is marked publicly with gun salutes at midday.

These include a 41-gun salute in Hyde Park, a 21-gun salute in Windsor Great Park and a 62-gun salute at the Tower of London.

A gun salute is a mark of respect for special royal celebrations.

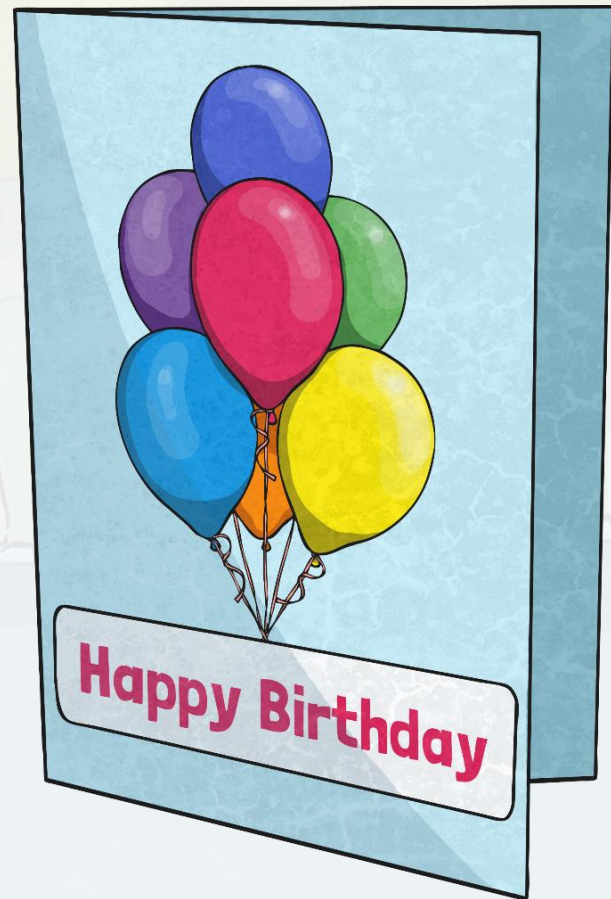




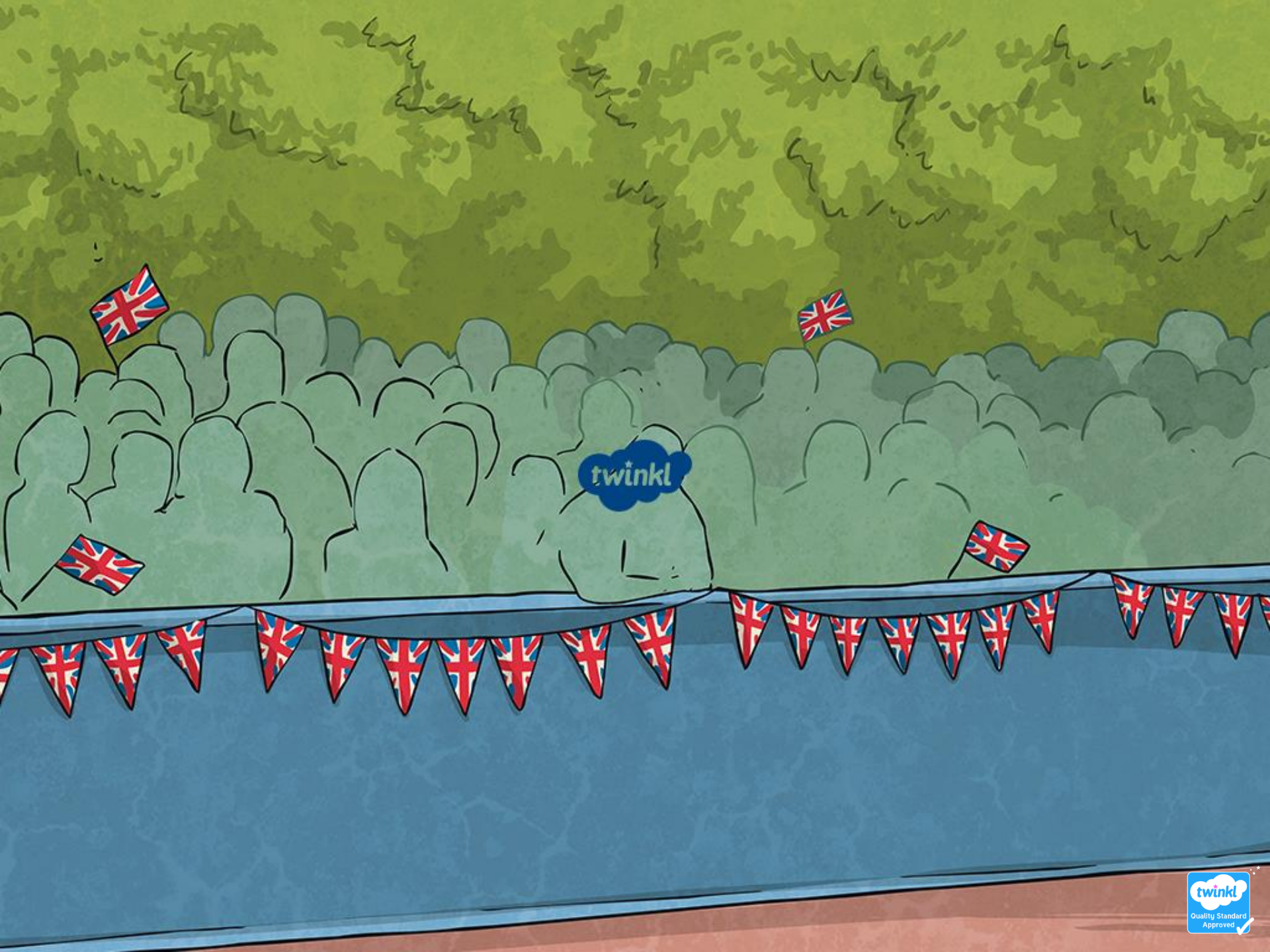
# My Royal Birthday



If you were the king or queen, how would you celebrate your real and official royal birthdays?







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