**THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH II IN UNDER A MINUTE**

This month, NG Kids’ time-travelling mouse, Max, visits Elizabeth II.

**Welcome, dear readers, to our speedy history of our very own Queen, Elizabeth II!**

In 1937 Elizabeth’s whole life changed when George V died. Her uncle became King Edward VII, but he gave up the crown 11 months later. Suddenly, her dad was King (George VI) and Elizabeth was next in line for the throne!

My pocket money definitely needs to go up now!

In 1952, her beloved father died and, aged only 25, Elizabeth was crowned Queen Elizabeth II. Her coronation was the world’s first major event to be televised and millions across the globe crowded around their TVs.

Isn’t she beautiful?

No, I think she IS the black dot!

In 1977 saw her celebrate 25 years as Queen with the Silver Jubilee. She had four children by then and the Royal Family had never been so popular! Street parties were held up and down the country with celebrations lasting all year!

A whole year? I think I’m starting to flag!

Elizabeth had married Greek Prince Philip Mountbatten in 1947, and when she became Queen they became the most well-travelled royals in history. Touring Commonwealth nations (ex-Empire) all over the world!

You’ll visit Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The whole of your dominion!

What, even Romford?

Oh, maybe not Romford.

Things didn’t always run smoothly. Three of her children, Charles, Anne and Andrew, all went through divorces, and in 1992 a fire caused terrible damage at Windsor Castle. Elizabeth called it her Annus Horribilis (Horrible Year).

Come on Lizzy, we’ve got work to do!

I’m staying in bed – I’m too depressed to get up!

But Elizabeth and her family got through all their troubles and the Royal Family are as popular as ever. Elizabeth went on to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee in 2012, notch up 60 years on the throne.

The Queen’s role in the world and at home is very different from how monarchs ruled in years past. Nowadays her reign is more symbolic and she’s not allowed to express opinions on how the country is run.

The Queen is more of a symbol than a leader.

She keeps her thoughts to herself?

Come on! I’m your husband, you can tell me!

My lips are sealed!

In 2015 she became Britain’s longest reigning monarch – beating Queen Victoria!

But two years later, WWII started. Elizabeth’s mother insisted the family stayed at home in solidarity with other Londoners. Elizabeth and her younger sister, Margaret, put on pantomimes for troops and friends at Windsor Castle.

My old man’s a dustman!

Aw! She’s just like one of us!

Elizabeth even trained to be a driver in the army!

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