

# The Life of Prince Philip

Prince Philip was the husband of Her Majesty The Queen. He would have been celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in June 2021. Sadly, he died in April 2021.

## Early Life

Prince Philip was born on the island of Corfu, Greece on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1921. When he was born, his title was 'Prince of Greece and Denmark'. His parents were Prince Andrew of Greece and Princess Alice of Battenberg and he had four older sisters. When he was 18 months old, Prince Philip and his family had to leave Greece because of political problems that were affecting his uncle, Constantine I, King of Greece. A navy ship was sent to collect Prince Philip and his family and the young prince was transported to safety in a cot made from an old orange box.



Prince Philip attended several different schools around Europe before completing his education in Scotland. In 1939, he then went on to become a **cadet** in the Royal Navy where he served onboard several ships during the Second World War.



## Marriage to The Queen

Prince Philip and Princess Elizabeth, as The Queen was previously titled, had known each other since childhood. After the Second World War, Prince Philip proposed to the princess and they were married at Westminster Abbey in 1947.

Prince Philip gave up his Greek titles and became a British citizen so that he could marry The Queen. After they were married, he was given new titles of Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich.

The royal couple went on to have four children: Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward. The prince carried on serving with the Royal Navy until Princess Elizabeth's **coronation** in 1952.



## Interests and Charity Work

Members of the royal family attend around 2,000 **official engagements** every year. Prince Philip was the longest-serving British **consort** and accompanied The Queen for over 60 years. As well as these royal duties, Prince Philip enjoyed sport, the environment, engineering and technology. The prince had a love of flying and could fly most types of planes.

Prince Philip was involved with around 780 organisations throughout the world. He was a president of the World Wildlife Fund since it was first set up in 1961.

In 1956, the prince created the Duke of Edinburgh's Award for young people to help them to improve their life skills. Over 3.1m DofE Awards have been given out so far.

## Later Life

In 2017, Prince Philip retired from public duties at the age of 96. He has eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. His eldest son, Prince Charles, is the next in line to the throne followed by his grandson Prince William and his great-grandson, Prince George.



## Glossary

**cadet:** A young trainee in the armed forces, such as the British Navy.

**consort:** A royal companion, usually the husband or wife of a king or queen.

**coronation:** The ceremony of crowning a new king or queen.

**official engagements:** Visits and appointments carried out by the royal family.

# Questions

1. **Prince Philip was The Queen's royal consort for over 60 years.**

A 'consort' is a royal \_\_\_\_\_. Tick one.

- ☐ visitor
- ☐ companion
- ☐ performance
- ☐ advisor

2. Number the events from 1-5 to show the order they happened in. The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ Prince Philip became a cadet in the Royal Navy.
- ☐ The World Wildlife Fund was set up.
- ☒ **1** Prince Philip was born on the island of Corfu, Greece.
- ☐ The prince stopped serving in the Royal Navy.
- ☐ The prince created the Duke of Edinburgh's Award for young people.

3. Why did Prince Philip and his family have to leave Greece?

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4. Find and copy one word which shows that Prince Philip was a royal consort for longer than anyone else.

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5. What did Prince Philip give up when he married Princess Elizabeth?

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6. Why do you think that an orange box was used for the cot that transported Prince Philip?

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7. **Members of the royal family attend around 2,000 official engagements every year.**

Explain why you think that the royal family attends these engagements.

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8. Summarise what you have learnt about Prince Philip.

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