

The Life of Prince Philip

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was the husband of Her Majesty The Queen. In June 2021, Prince Philip would have been celebrating his 100th birthday but, sadly, he died in April 2021.

Early Life

Prince Philip was born on the island of Corfu, Greece on 10th June 1921. As the only son of Prince Andrew of Greece and Princess Alice of Battenberg, he was given the title 'Prince of Greece and Denmark'. Prince Philip had four older sisters: Cecilie, Sophie, Margarita and Theodora.

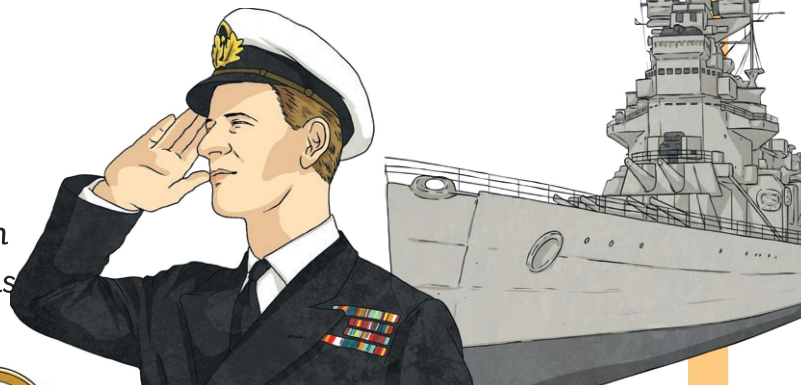
When he was eight months old, Prince Philip and his family had to evacuate Greece when his uncle (Constantine I, King of Greece) was forced to **abdicate** the throne. The young prince was transported to safety by a Royal Navy ship in a cot made from an old orange box.

Prince Philip spent much of his childhood moving around Europe. He went to school in France (where he learnt to speak fluent French) before moving to England and studying at Cheam School. The prince then relocated to Germany before completing his education in Scotland.



Naval Career

In 1939, Prince Philip became a cadet in the Royal Navy. Following his training, Prince Philip served in the navy onboard several ships during the Second World War. By the age of 21, Prince Philip had already risen to the rank of First Lieutenant.



Marriage to The Queen

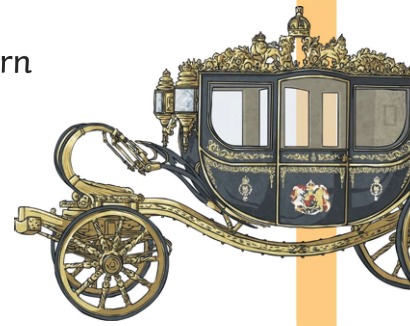


Prince Philip and Princess Elizabeth (as she was then known) had known each other since childhood. The pair are said to have exchanged letters for several years. Following the Second World War, Prince Philip proposed to Princess

Elizabeth and they were married at Westminster Abbey in 1947. The wedding was broadcast live on the radio. In order to marry Princess Elizabeth, Prince Philip gave up his Greek titles and became a British citizen. However,

following his marriage, Prince Philip was given new titles: Duke of Edinburgh; Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich.

The royal couple went on to have four children: Prince Charles (born 1948); Princess Anne (born 1950); Prince Andrew (born 1960) and Prince Edward (born 1964). The prince continued to serve with the Royal Navy until Princess Elizabeth's **coronation** in 1952.



Interests and Royal Life

Much of Prince Philip's time was taken up with royal duties; he was the longest-serving **consort** and had accompanied The Queen for over 60 years.

Outside of his royal duties, Prince Philip enjoyed flying; he had earned his helicopter 'wings' and his pilot's licence.

The prince had a keen interest in sport, the environment, engineering and technology. In 1961, the prince was the first member of the royal family to take part in a television interview.

Later Life

In 2017, at the age of 96, Prince Philip retired from public duties. 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.

Charity Work

Prince Philip was involved with around 780 organisations throughout the world. He was heavily involved as a president of the World Wildlife Fund since it was founded in 1961.

In 1956, the prince created the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award for young people. The DofE Award is a youth achievement programme for young people between 14 and 24 years old which aims to improve their life skills. So far, over 3.1m DofEs have been awarded.



Glossary

abdicate: To step down as king or queen.

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

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

Questions

1. Where was Prince Philip born? Tick one.

- ☐ France
☐ Scotland
☐ Greece
☐ England

2. Draw **four** lines and match each event with the correct year.

1939	Prince Philip and The Queen were married at Westminster Abbey.
1956	The prince took part in a television interview.
1947	The prince created the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award.
1961	Prince Philip became a cadet in the Royal Navy.

3. Find and copy a word from the text that means 'to leave a place of danger for a safer place'.

4. What is the name of Prince Philip's youth achievement programme?

5. Find and copy a word from the text that means 'royal companion'.

6. **He was heavily involved as a president of the World Wildlife Fund since it was founded in 1961.**

Explain what the phrase 'heavily involved' tells you about the prince's role.

7. **In 1961, the prince was the first member of the royal family to take part in a television interview.**

Predict why you think that people would have chosen to watch this television interview.

8. Why do you think Prince Philip retired from royal engagements in 2017?

9. Summarise Prince Philip's achievements in 30 words or fewer.
