

The Life of Prince Philip

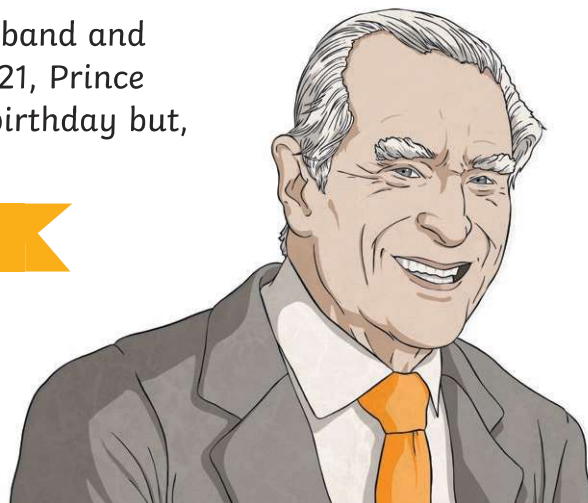
Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was the husband and consort of Her Majesty The Queen. In June 2021, Prince Philip would have been celebrating his 100th birthday but, unfortunately, he died in April 2021.

Early Life

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

When he was only 18 months old, Prince Philip and his family had no choice but to evacuate their home country on account of political instability: his uncle (Constantine I, King of Greece) was being forced to abdicate the throne. A Royal Navy ship was ordered to collect the family from Greece and a cot fashioned from an old orange box was used to escort a young Prince Philip to safety.

Prince Philip spent much of his early life moving around Europe. He was raised in France (where he learnt to speak fluent French) and attended school there before moving to England and studying at Cheam School in Berkshire. For a short time, the prince relocated to Germany before completing his schooling in Scotland, where he excelled.



Naval Career

In 1939, the year of the outbreak of the Second World War, Prince Philip became a cadet in the Royal Navy. Following a period of training, Prince Philip assumed the role of Midshipman onboard the battleship HMS RAMILLIES. He continued to serve in the navy onboard several ships during the Second World War. By the tender 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) were distant relations and had been acquainted 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 a lavish ceremony at Westminster Abbey in 1947. The wedding was broadcast live worldwide on the radio. In order to marry Princess Elizabeth, Prince Philip renounced his

Greek titles and became a British citizen. Nevertheless, upon his marriage to the princess, Prince Philip was bestowed 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). Prince Philip and Princess Elizabeth attended many royal engagements together and the prince continued to serve with the Royal Navy until Princess Elizabeth's accession to the throne in 1952.

Interests and Royal Life

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

Aside from royal duties, Prince Philip enjoyed aviation and flew all types of aircraft; he had earned both his helicopter 'wings' and his pilot's licence.

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

Charity Work

Prince Philip was involved in a number of charities and is the patron or president of around 780 organisations throughout the world. He was heavily involved as a president of the World Wildlife Fund since its foundation in 1961.

In 1956, the prince created the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award: a youth achievement programme for 14 to 24 year-olds to carry out a range of activities to improve their life skills. So far, over 3.1m DofE awards have been achieved.

Later Life

In 2017, at the age of 96, Prince Philip retired from public engagements. He remained a devoted companion to The Queen and the couple have 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.



Questions

1. Which country did Prince Philip not live in as a child? Tick one.

- ☐ France
- ☐ Scotland
- ☐ Greece
- ☐ Austria

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- ☐ Queen Elizabeth I took to the throne.
- ☐ Prince Andrew was born.
- ☐ The prince created the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.
- ☐ The World Wildlife Fund was created.

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

4. What rank did Prince Philip hold in the Royal Navy when he was 21 years old?

5. In which section of the text would you find information about Prince Philip's royal titles?

6. **He remained a devoted companion to The Queen.**

Explain what the phrase 'devoted companion' tells you about Prince Philip's relationship with The Queen.

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

What kinds of activities do you think the prince undertook for the World Wildlife Fund?

8. Why do you think that no other royal family member had been interviewed on television before Prince Philip?

9. **Prince Philip spent much of his early life moving around Europe.**

Discuss why you think Prince Philip 'moved around' Europe.

10. What do you think was Prince Philip's greatest achievement? Explain your answer.
