

# KING CHARLES III BIOGRAPHY

## GAP-FILL ACTIVITY



Prince Charles became King Charles III at the age of 73 when his mother, Queen Elizabeth II died on 8 September 2022. This made him the oldest person ever to accede to the British throne. He is the King of the United Kingdom and the 14 other Commonwealth realms.

Charles was born on 14 November 1948 in Buckingham Palace, London. His full name is Charles Phillip Arthur George. He was three years old when his mother acceded to the throne in 1952, making him the heir apparent. In fact, he became Britain's longest-serving heir apparent and Prince of Wales.

He was made Prince of Wales in 1958. Before his investiture in 1969, he learned to speak Welsh and he still speaks the language when visiting Wales.

He was educated at Cheam and Gordonstoun schools, as was his father, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Charles later spent six months at the Timbertop campus of Geelong Grammar School in Victoria, Australia. He then studied at the University of Cambridge where he gained a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Keeping with Royal Family tradition, Charles served in the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy from 1971 to 1976. He trained as a jet and helicopter pilot and also became a qualified diver. In later life, he used his diving skills to explore shipwrecks such as 'The Mary Rose'.

In 1981, he married Lady Diana Spencer, with whom he had two sons: William and Harry. In 1996, Charles and Diana were divorced, which caused a lot of controversy at the time. The following year, Diana died in a car crash and there was an outpouring of public grief for her and sympathy for her children. However, there was also some criticism of the way the Royal Family (including Prince Charles) reacted to this sad event.

In 2005, Charles married his long-term friend, Camilla Parker Bowles.

As heir apparent, Charles undertook official duties and engagements on behalf of his mother. He founded the youth charity the Prince's Trust in 1976 and is a patron, president, and a member of over 400 other charities and organisations.

He has had a long-term interest in the conservation of historic buildings and the importance of architecture in society.

He has always been concerned with the environment and supported organic farming and action to prevent climate change during his time as the manager of the Duchy of Cornwall estates (land which the Royal Family owns). He has also been a critic of genetically modified food. Many of his environmental activities have been praised by environmental groups, however, his support for homoeopathy and other alternative medicine has sometimes been criticised.

Charles enjoys painting and playing the cello. He is also the author or co-author of over 20 books.

Charles's coronation ceremony is scheduled to take place on 6 May 2023.