

## Facts

### Queen Victoria - the person

Born in 1819

Ascended in 1837

Died in 1901, aged 81

Reigned for 63 years

Married to Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg bearing 4 sons and 5 daughters.

Eighteen-year-old Queen Victoria acceded to the throne on the 20th June 1837, after her childless Uncle William IV had left no heir to the throne. Despite her youth, she proved to be a powerful, obstinate Queen with a strong sense of duty to her people. She was a relief to a country that was becoming sick of its history of debauched and irresponsible kings and this soon made Victoria very popular.

Initially she was delighted with her coronation but she soon tired of her position. Although she continued in her duties quite admirably, her boredom was obvious and a suitable husband was sought. She married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg, nephew of King Leopold of Belgium, on the 10th February 1840. Later that year she gave birth to the Princess Royal, Victoria Adelaide, whom later married Frederick III of Prussia and gave birth to the infamous Kaiser William II of Germany.

Victoria had nine children in total, but her next child, Albert, born in November 1841, was to be heir to the crown. She had a great many political problems throughout her reign, but Victoria weathered these, and several attempted assassinations, to become one of the longest reigning monarchs Britain has seen. Her husband Albert was always a massive support to her, but since he was a foreign Prince, he had no power in affairs of state.

In 1861 Albert died suddenly, causing the devastated queen to withdraw from public duties. She went into a long mourning and, during this time, the people started to turn against her. Her reign, however, ended in glory because, largely, Disraeli had persuaded her to resume public duties.