

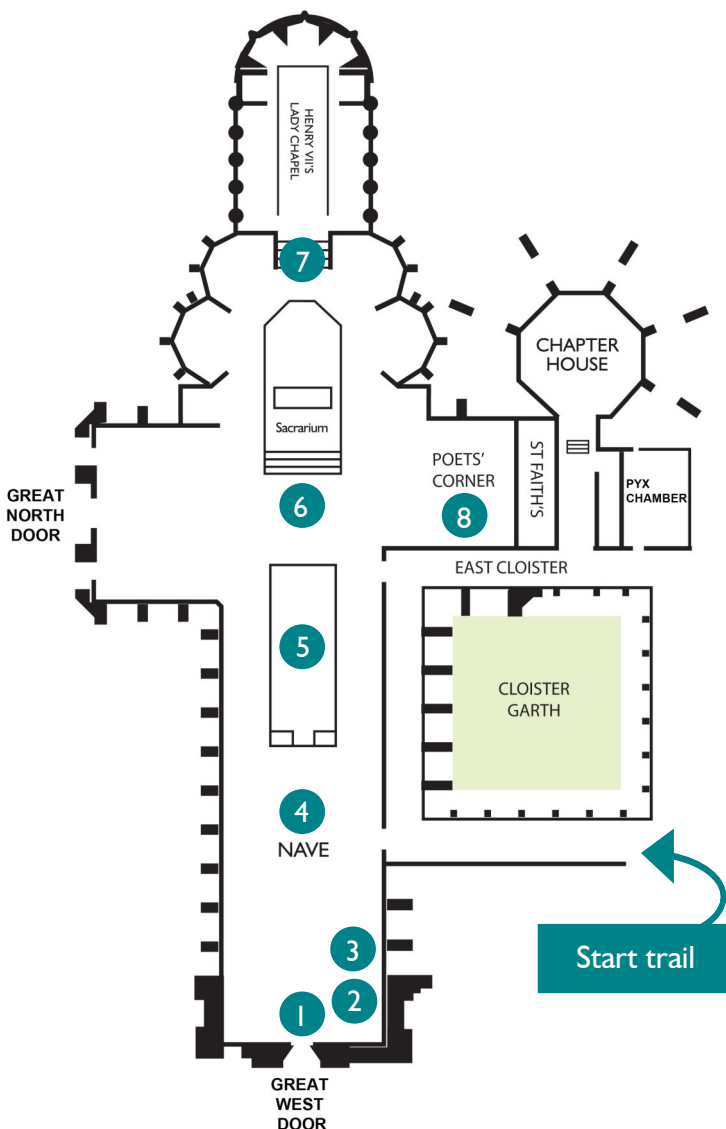
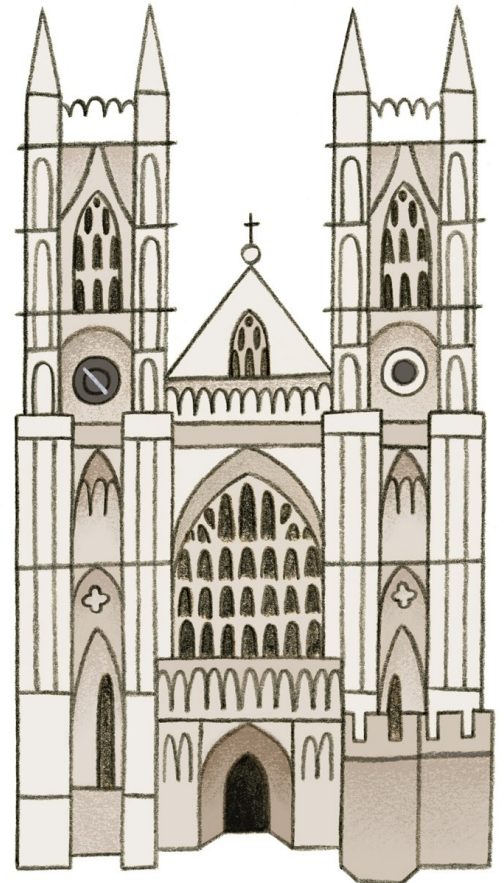


Kings, Queens & Coronations

Welcome to Westminster Abbey, a royal church. This is where the coronations of kings and queens take place.

What is a coronation?

A coronation is a special service where the king or queen is recognised, anointed and crowned as the new monarch. This is a Christian service and takes place in a church.



Site Map

We are going to follow the journey of a new monarch on the day of their coronation.

This map will help guide you around the Abbey. Follow the blue dots in numerical order.



Top tip! If you have any questions, feel free to ask an Abbey Marshal or Abbey Guide in a red or blue gown.

1 The Great West Door



The Great West Door is the royal entrance to Westminster Abbey. Kings and queens enter this way for their coronation and have stood where you are standing now.

All crowned monarchs since 1066 have had their coronation here; that's nearly 1,000 years!

Look up and all around. Imagine this is your coronation day. How might you be feeling? What are you thinking about as you stand here now?

Write down three words to describe these feelings...

2 The Coronation Chair

This chair is nearly 700 years old!

The Coronation Chair is where the monarch sits for part of the coronation service, so it is a very important piece of furniture.

Do you think it looks special?

When the Coronation Chair was first made, it would have been covered in gold leaf and decorated with beautiful birds and flowers. But it has been damaged over the years.

Can you spot the marks on the back of the chair?

It's graffiti! Naughty schoolboys used to carve their names into the Coronation Chair.

Who was the last person to sit on this chair?

Who do you think the next person will be?

If you were creating a new Coronation Chair, how would you decorate it? Use this template.



3 King Richard II portrait

Look up at the big painting next to the Coronation Chair.

What is this man's job? How can you tell?

This is a portrait of King Richard II. We can tell he was a king because of what he is wearing and holding. During the coronation service, the monarch is presented with the **Coronation Regalia**, part of the **Crown Jewels**.



Fun Fact: Richard II was only ten years old when he was crowned. His coronation service was so long that he fell asleep on the Coronation Chair! It's not surprising considering the service lasted five hours.



Orb



St Edward's Crown

Can you match the Coronation Regalia objects with their meaning? Draw a line between each object and its meaning.

symbolises authority and power

symbolises royalty

symbolises God's rule over the world,
shown by the shape of the object



Sceptre



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At King Charles III's coronation, he was presented with the Coronation Regalia by people from different faiths, including Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism and Judaism.

Why do you think it is important that people of different faiths were included?

4 The nave

As you move down the nave, think about what the Abbey would look like during a coronation. For King Charles III's coronation there were 2,300 people in the Abbey.

Can you spot the kings in the stained-glass windows on your left?

Put a tick next to each king you spot:

King Edward the Confessor, holding a ring	
King Henry III, holding a mini Westminster Abbey	
King Henry V, dressed like a soldier	



5 The quire

This is where the Abbey choir sit and sing. The Westminster Abbey choir is made up of men and boys aged between 7-13 years old, who live and go to school here. **Do you like singing?**

Music is very important in a coronation. Over 200 musicians performed at King Charles III's coronation. You can see some of them in the picture below.

Girl choirs and a gospel choir were invited to sing at the coronation for the first time. They also sang in different languages.

If you were organising a coronation, what type of music would you have? Discuss with a partner.

Can you spot the large musical instrument that is used to accompany the choir's singing during coronations?

Clue: look up!

At King Charles III's coronation, a special stage was built in this part of the Abbey. It was covered with a yellow and blue carpet. We call this space the Coronation Theatre.



6 The High Altar

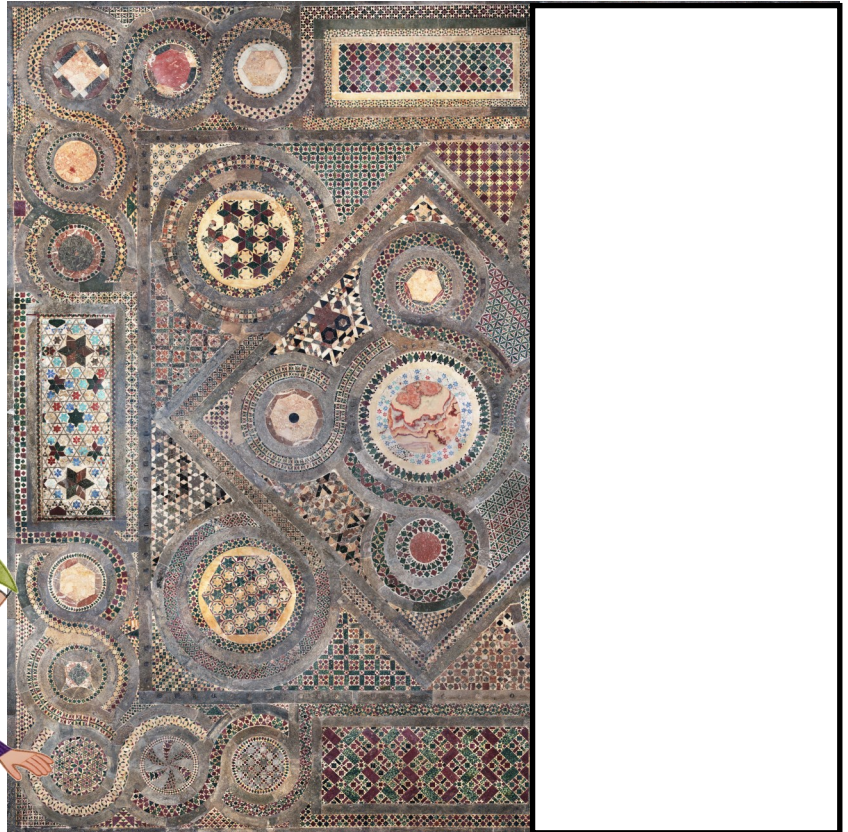
Coronations take place in front of the High Altar. The Coronation Chair, which we saw earlier, is placed on this beautiful pavement covered in mosaics and patterns. **This is called the Cosmati Pavement and it is made of nearly 30,000 individually cut stones.**

This is what the Cosmati Pavement looks like from above.

Draw an X where you think the Coronation Chair is placed.

During the coronation monarchs face towards the High Altar, rather than the people in the Abbey. This is because it is a Christian service, where the king or queen makes promises to God.

Why not have a go at drawing the rest of the Cosmati Pavement in the empty box?
How might the pattern continue?



These are the stages of a coronation service. **Which do you think is the most important part and why?**

Recognition and Oath

The monarch is presented to the people and promises to uphold the law and the Christian faith.

Anointing

The Archbishop pours holy oil from the Ampulla into the Spoon and uses it to make the sign of a cross on the monarch's forehead, hands, and heart.

Investing

The monarch is presented with the Coronation Regalia.

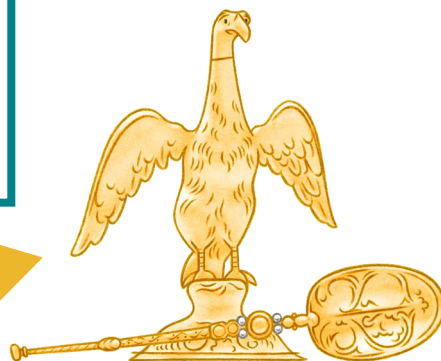
Crowning

A crown is placed on the monarch's head and everyone shouts 'God save the King/Queen'

You could try to whisper 'God save the King'.

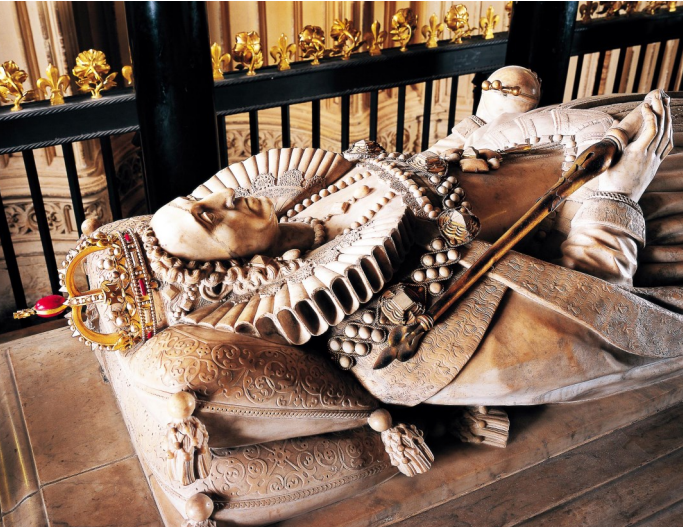
What might these objects be called?

Clue: they are used for the anointing.



7 Royal tombs and the Lady Chapel

We are now moving to the part of Westminster Abbey where kings and queens are buried. **Act as if you are walking among royalty, stand up straight, hold your head high, maybe even throw in a bow!**



Tomb of Queen Mary I and Queen Elizabeth I

Mary I and Elizabeth I were the first queens of England to be crowned in their own right (this means that they weren't just queens because their husbands were kings).

Look at Elizabeth I's tomb, how can we tell she was a queen?

Although the effigy is now just white marble it used to be coloured - she was wearing a red robe with a blue orb in her hand.

Lady Chapel

This part of the Abbey was built by a Tudor king called Henry VII. There are royal symbols all over this room.

How many crowns can you spot?

What other royal symbols can you see?

Discuss with a partner.



Count your crowns here

8 Poets' Corner

This is Poets' Corner. Famous writers, poets and musicians are buried and remembered here.

Do you recognise any of their names?

William Shakespeare

Shakespeare wrote lots of plays and some of them were about past kings and queens of England. He also wrote about coronations.

What words would you use to describe a good king or queen?



George Frederic Handel

George Frederic Handel was a composer. He wrote an important piece of music that is played at every coronation, called **Zadok the Priest**.

He has a burial stone on the floor but also a very grand memorial statue on the wall. Can you find them?

If you were buried or remembered at Westminster Abbey, what pose would you want your statue to be in? Create your pose to show your classmates!



Reflections

As we come to the end of your visit, let's think about what you have learnt. Tick off the different things you have discovered whilst at Westminster Abbey.



I have learnt....

- What a coronation is
- Where coronations happen
- What objects are used during a coronation
- The order of a coronation service
- What music is played during a coronation



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Use the space below to answer the following questions about your visit.

You can write words or draw pictures.

- What was the most interesting thing you have learnt on this visit?
- Did you find anything surprising?
- What questions do you still have? What would you like to learn more about?

