

OF KINGS AND QUEENS

Would you want to be a king or a queen? A large staff would obey your every order. You'd live in a fancy palace and wear elegant clothes. You'd have wealth, fame, power—almost anything your heart desires.

Now for the downside. Other people just might be envious of what you have. In the past, some of those people went after the throne—and the ruler's throat. The people of France despised Queen Marie Antoinette (1755–1793) and King Louis XVI (1754–1793). These rich, spoiled rulers lived in luxury while others suffered. When told that the peasants didn't have bread to eat, Marie Antoinette replied, "Let them eat cake." The peasants responded by beheading both monarchs.

Kings and queens today don't have to worry about being beheaded, but they do live in the public eye, and this presents its own problems. For better or worse, kings and queens have ruled nations for thousands of years. Some, like Marie Antoinette and King Louis XVI, were uncaring and greedy. Others, such as the popular kings of Siam (now Thailand), built great nations.

You'll meet them all—the wise, the foolish, and those in between—as you tour royalty from the comfort of your living-room throne.

Rulers Around the World

The word *monarch* applies to any individual who inherits—or sometimes seizes—the position of ruling a nation. Not all monarchs are called king or queen. Rulers are known by many titles—not all of which are in use today. Here is a sampling:



**PHAROAH
HATSHEPSUT
OF EGYPT**
(c.1540–1481 B.C.)



**SULTAN SULEYMAN
THE MAGNIFICENT
OF TURKEY**
(1494–1566)



**RANI OF JHANSI,
INDIA**
(c.1830–1858)



**MAHARAJA
DALIP SINGH
OF INDIA**
(1838–1883)



**SHAH MOHAMMAD
REZA PAHLAVI
OF IRAN**
(1919–1980)

Cool Crowns



British
Crown



French
Crown

KINGS AND QUEENS ARE officially crowned at ceremonies called coronations. (*Corona* means "crown.")

The coronation of Czar Nicholas II (1868–1918), Russia's last czar, and Empress

Alexandra Feodorovna (1872–1918) took place in 1894 in the Church of the Assumption, Moscow.



Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.

—William Shakespeare, *Henry IV, Part 2*



Transylvanian Crown



Russian Crown



German Crown



Austrian Crown



Iranian Crown



CAN ANYONE BE KING or queen? Most kings and queens are born into royalty. The eldest son is usually the heir (pronounced like "air"), or crown prince. William (above, right) is next in line to the British throne after his father, Prince Charles (above, center), succeeds his mother, Queen Elizabeth II. Next in line after William is his younger brother, Harry (above, left). Non-royals can get their chance at royalty—by marrying into a royal family or by seizing the throne by force!

CHECK IT OUT!

What is the only U.S. state that has a royal palace? 
(answer on back cover)



GENGHIS KHAN
OF CENTRAL ASIA
(c. 1162–1227)



INCA ATAHUALPA
OF THE QUECHUA-
INCA EMPIRE,
SOUTH AMERICA
(c. 1500–1533)



CZARINA
CATHERINE THE
GREAT OF RUSSIA
(1729–1796)



CZAR IVAN IV—
"IVAN THE TERRIBLE"
(1530–1584)



EMPRESS
MARIA THERESA
OF AUSTRIA
(1717–1780)



EMPEROR
NAPOLEON BONAPARTE
OF FRANCE
(1769–1821)

The World's First Rulers

Royalty is almost as old as civilization itself. The development of farming 10,000 years ago meant that people didn't have to roam the land in search of food. They could settle down. Great cities grew in Mesopotamia (now Iraq), Egypt, and other fertile areas. Leaders rose to rule these city-states. Their power grew. They gave themselves a new, lofty title—king—and declared their relatives nobles. Family ties became the fast track to power.

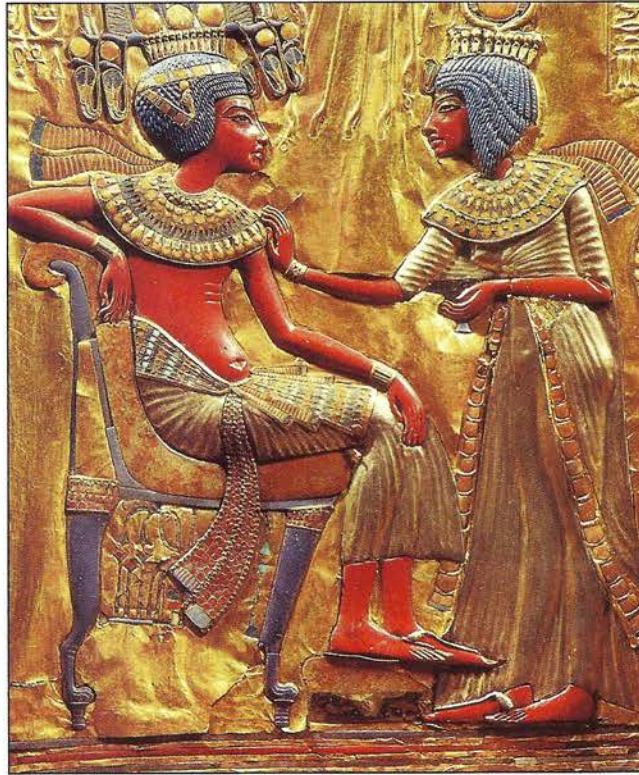
But who was the first royal? Every royal family had to begin somewhere, sometime, with some "fortunate soldier" as the first king or queen. No one knows the who, where, and how behind the very first king or queen. But Egyptian dynasties (ruling families) were among the first in recorded history, and the earliest dates back to about 3100 B.C.



◀ **PHARAHS RULED** ancient Egypt. They declared themselves divine (specially chosen by God) and claimed to speak with the voice of God. Only five Egyptian queens held the title of pharaoh. Nefertiti

(left) was the most mysterious. Little is known about her. Cleopatra is the most famous of the pharaoh queens. Hatshepsut ruled the longest—21 years. She co-ruled with husband Amen-hotep IV.

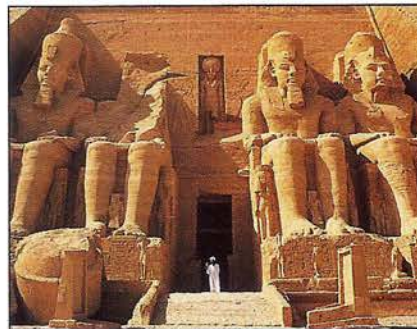
▶ **THE LONGEST-** ruling monarch ever was an Egyptian named Pepi II. He took the throne when he was just six years old, in 2272 B.C. Pharaoh Pepi II's reign is thought to have lasted 94 years.



◀ **PHARAOH** Tutankhamen became king when he was about nine years old. Although he died 10 years later, he has been kept alive through the work of archaeologist Howard Carter, who found a sealed entrance to his tomb. Inside were thrones, vases, jewelry, chariots, and other items. The mummy was protected by four coffins, one of which was made of more than two thousand pounds of gold.



◀ **TO KEEP** bloodlines pure, pharaohs usually married a sibling—or even a son or daughter. At age 10, Ptolemy XIII married his teenage sister, Cleopatra, but later exiled her. With the help of the Roman general Julius Caesar, Cleopatra killed her brother. She co-ruled with another brother, Ptolemy XIV. After Caesar died, Cleopatra poisoned this brother and declared herself co-ruler with her son.



▲ **PHARAHS WORKED** hard to create an image of power. Like a candidate for office, Ramses II spread his image all over Egypt. He built giant statues of himself and Queen Nefertari. The work paid off. Ramses II became

the most popular king of Egypt. Countries thought twice about attacking such a great leader. Ramses II ruled for 67 years. Above is part of the most famous structure he built, the temple at Abu Simbel.





◀ **LONG BEFORE** Babylon was built, various people had settled in Mesopotamia. Among them were the Sumerians, who lived in small city-states, each ruled by a king who was also a high priest. Over

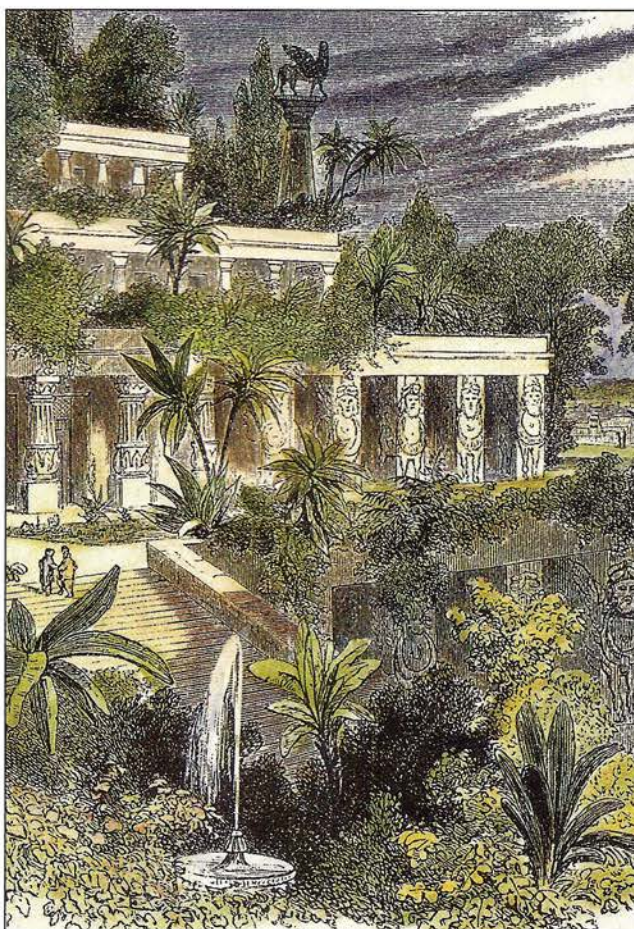
time, wars among the city-states weakened their power. In 2300 B.C., a Semitic conqueror, King Sargon I, began his rule. His kingdom spread east into present-day Iran and west into present-day Syria.



◀ **KINGS RULED THE** Persian empire of western Asia as early as the fifth century B.C. One of the most important was King Darius, who ruled during the fourth century B.C. Although he was unsuccessful in invading Greece, Darius built the impressive city of Persepolis and successfully held his empire together against invaders. However, Alexander the Great destroyed Darius's empire in 331 B.C.



◀ **ACCORDING TO** the Bible, King David began life as a shepherd but became king of the Israelites after defeating Goliath, a great warrior. David's descendants include King Solomon, who ruled the Jews in the 10th century B.C. Solomon is credited with building the first Jewish temple in the holy city of Jerusalem.



▲ **MESOPOTAMIA** was home to one of the first great civilizations. In this fertile region between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers, King

Nebuchadnezzar II ruled over the city of Babylon in the sixth century B.C. He made his city the capital of a great empire with impressive reli-

gious buildings, palaces, massive walls, and the magnificent hanging gardens—one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.



▲ **ALEXANDER THE** Great (356–323 B.C.) was heir to a kingdom. But the kingdom was a tiny region in Greece called Macedon. By the time Alexander

died at age 33, he was a king on three continents. By military force, he had become king of all of Greece, pharaoh of Egypt, and the ruler of Asia Minor.



CHECK IT OUT!

The world's largest pyramid is not in Egypt—or even in Africa. Can you guess the continent? And the country? Some hints: Like Egyptian pyramids, it is a burial tomb for rulers. Each side is more than four football fields long. Its builders worked from the second to the eighth centuries to create the adobe (sun-dried brick) structure.

(answer on back cover)

The first who was king was a fortunate soldier.

—Voltaire, *Méropé*

European Royalty of Days Gone By

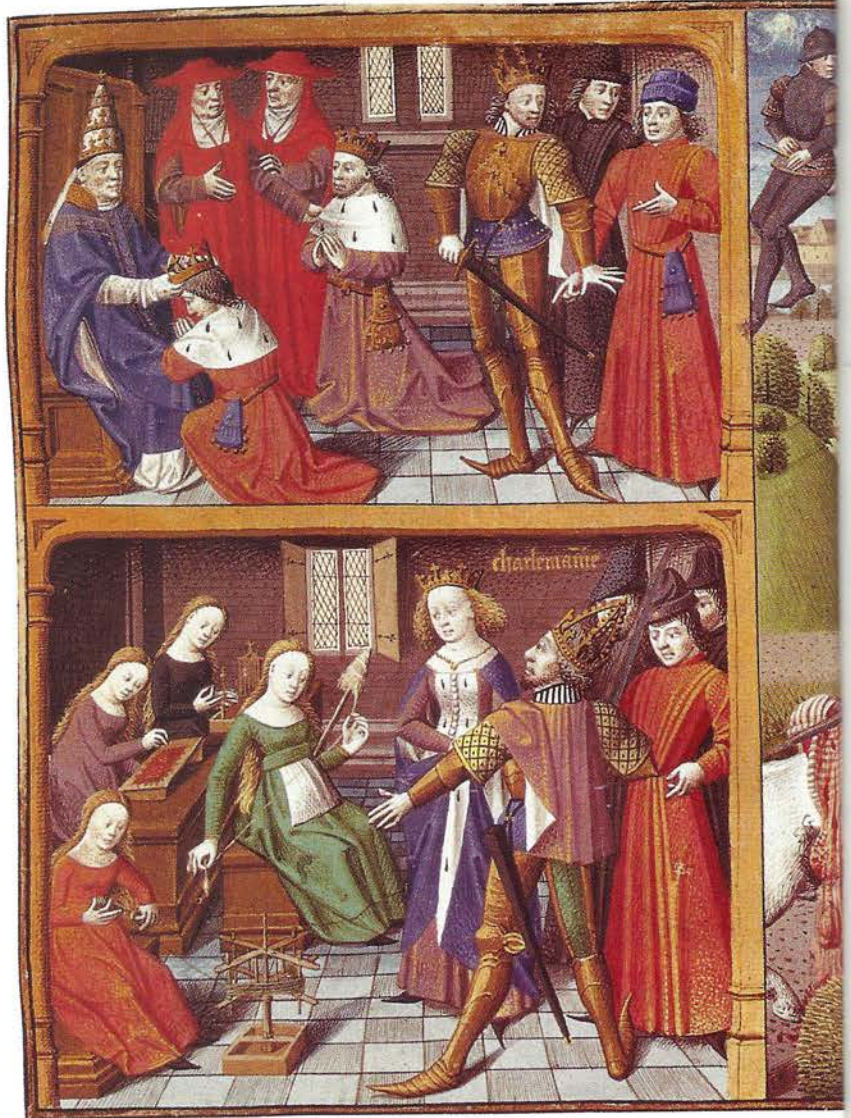
Queen Isabella I of Spain (1451–1504) had a dream. She dreamed that all the countries of Europe would one day unite. They would have one ruler (herself), one government (hers), and one religion (hers again). Of course, many other monarchs had a similar dream. But they wished for a united Europe under *their* rule, *their* government, and *their* faith.

For thousands of years, Europeans fought wars over land, power, wealth, and religion. As soon as a map was drawn, borders changed. Countries came and went. In the Hundred Years' War, English and French kings traded territory for more than a century (1337–1453). Moors (Arab Muslims) took over Spain, but over time (711–1492), they eventually lost it. The Ottoman Empire, one of the greatest empires in the world, thrived from the late 13th century until the 19th century, when outside forces eventually brought it down. By the time World War II had ended, the great empires of Germany, Russia, and Turkey had disappeared and were replaced by various kinds of governments, such as monarchies, constitutional republics, and sheikdoms.

So much for Queen Isabella's dream. The reality is that a united Europe would be nearly impossible to cut from one cloth. Picture instead a patchwork quilt of many different colors and designs.

One king, one law, one faith.

—the motto of Queen Isabella I



▲ **ROYALS MARRIED** royals of other countries to unify lands and prevent wars. The Romanovs of Russia were cousins of the Windsors of England. King Charles V of Spain was born in the Netherlands, son of an Austrian father.

▲ **ONE OF EUROPE'S** greatest kings, Charlemagne (742–814), came close to uniting Europe. Pope Leo III crowned him Holy Roman Emperor. His empire eventually spanned most of western Europe. But after Charlemagne's death, Europe split up again. The countries of Germany and France were born. Above are scenes from Charlemagne's crowning and life.

► **CATHERINE THE** Great (1729–1796) was not born great. She was a minor German princess, but she married well. Her husband, Peter III, was the czar of Russia. Not content to be the wife of a ruler, Catherine wanted to be ruler in her own right. In 1762 the Russian army arrested and killed Peter and gave Catherine her wish. She ruled Russia for 34 years.

CHECK IT OUT!



If you got knocked "to kingdom come," where exactly would you be? (answer on back)



▲ WHENEVER A monarch is too young or too ill to rule, fill-in rulers, called regents, handle the royal affairs. The regent may be a relative, often a mother, or a member of the court. Mary, Queen of Scots (1542–1587), was the only child of King James V and Mary of Guise. When James died, Mary took the Scottish throne—as a one-week-old baby. Regents ruled for years while the infant queen grew up.



▲ EDWARD VIII became king of England in 1936 after the death of his father. However, he believed love was more important than the crown. So, he abdicated (gave up the throne) less than a year later in order to marry a divorced American woman, Wallis Warfield Simpson. His brother became King George VI.



PETER THE GREAT

▲ PETER THE GREAT became czar of Russia in 1682, building a new capital at St. Petersburg. Along with improving education and industry, he traveled through Europe in disguise to find out about Western life. His goal was to modernize Russia. Peter the Great defeated Sweden, gaining an outlet to the West through the Baltic coast.

► IN THE MIDDLE Ages, serfs, who worked for the lord or king of a castle, had few rights. The king could make laws at will. For example, a serf who attempted to escape ran the risk of severe

punishment. But if the serf could hide for a year and a day, he or she was free. Why did serfs stick around? The king, his knights, his army, and his castle protected them against invaders.



FRENCH



ENGLISH

◀ EVERY KING HAD A coat of arms, a symbol to place on flags and uniforms. The symbol of the kings of France was a *fleur-de-lis* (fler-duh-lee), or lily. The coat of arms of England's rulers sported a lion standing on two feet. In the Middle Ages, France and England battled so often that sometimes a king had both a *fleur-de-lis* and a lion on his coat of arms.



▲ WILLIAM THE Conqueror (1028–1087) was the son of a duke and a commoner. But he boosted his royal pedigree by marrying Matilda, daughter of a king. When King Edward of

England died, William tried to take the throne. He claimed that Edward had promised him the title. But an earl named Harold became king instead. William killed Harold at the famous Battle of Hastings (shown in the tapestry above) in October 1066. By December, William had won his title of king.



▲ BEFORE OLAF Haraldson (c. 995–1030) became king of his Viking subjects in Norway, he was a warrior who led successful

raids throughout Europe. After converting to Christianity, he demanded that his subjects do the same—or die!

Only with a new ruler do you realize the value of the old.

—Burmese proverb

How the Rest of the World Was Ruled

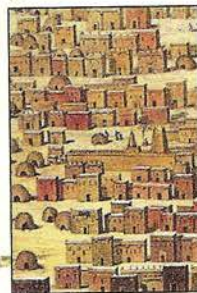
Tyrannical (all-powerful and cruel) and benevolent (kind) rulers have risen to power and fallen in most parts of the world. Here's a sampling of some of the most famous—and infamous.



▲ **MORE THAN** 1,500 years after his death, the name Attila the Hun still evokes fear. Attila and his army

terrorized Roman cities in eastern Europe, Germany, Greece, Arabia, Palestine, and other areas during the fifth century. They slaughtered citizens at will. Attila then demanded huge payments from the Roman Empire in exchange for not

attacking again. Attila's strategy worked for a while. But eventually the Hun power decreased and the Hun people disappeared. Their reputation lives on, though, in the word *hun*, which has come to mean "savage."



◀ **MANSA MUSA** was emperor of Mali, in western Africa, in the 14th century. The capital city, Timbuktu, reflected Mali's wealth, which came from gold deposits.



▲ **NATIVE AMERICAN** tribes don't use royal titles, yet early colonists bestowed such titles on them anyway. "King Philip," whose real name was Metacomet (c. 1639–1676), was a sachem (chief) of the Wampanoag people. "Princess" Pocahontas (c. 1599–1617) was not a princess but the daughter of Chief Powhatan.



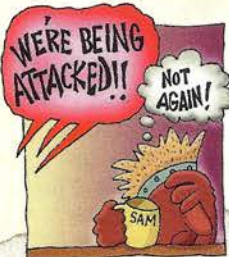
▲ **AT ITS HEIGHT IN** 1525, the Inca Empire extended along the coast of South America in present-day Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Chile. The head of the empire was the Inca (chief). When Inca Huaya Capac died in 1525, civil war broke out. Soon after, the Spanish gained control and in time, the Inca Empire fell.



▲ **RULERS OF BENIN**, part of present-day Nigeria, were considered all-powerful. Known as obas, they were thought to be the representatives of all gods in Benin. Ewuare, oba in the mid-15th century, expanded Benin into an empire. In the 16th century, obas became rich by selling ivory, pepper, and slaves.



▲ **A ZULU WARRIOR** king named Shaka (c. 1787–1828), from the kingdom of Mthethwa on the eastern shore of southern Africa, north of present-day Durban, trained his 40,000 soldiers in the most effective ways of using shields and spears. He succeeded well, for he extended his kingdom over much of southern Africa.



◀ **SAMORI TOURÉ** (1830–1900) was the chief and religious leader of the Mandinka Empire. He founded a Muslim state

in West Africa. Touré resisted French penetration and was engaged in almost continual battle until his death.



▲ **LIKE ATTLA THE Hun**, the name Genghis Khan (c. 1162–1227) still makes people shudder. The great Mongolian warrior inherited the title at the age



of 13. He almost lost it to rival Mongols. But as he grew up, his power increased. Genghis Khan conquered lands throughout Asia.

▲ **GENGHIS KHAN'S** grandson, Kublai Khan (1215–1294), inherited the vast Mongol Empire. Kublai unified China and hired

Italian explorer Marco Polo. Polo went on peaceful missions to learn about the far-flung peoples of the empire.



▲ **SHOGUNS WEREN'T** kings, queens, or emperors. They were “grand generals” who grabbed and lost Japanese land in battle after battle, from the 12th century to the 19th century. They also grabbed and lost the emperor's job. The title of shogun passed from parent to child. No shogun ruled all of Japan. But three families dominated: the Minamotos (1192–1333), the Ashikagas (1338–1573), and the Tokugawas (1603–1868). After the last shogun died, Emperor Meiji Mutsuhito (1852–1912) took power.



▲ **IN THE 19TH** century, India was part of the British Empire. Not all Indians liked this arrangement. Rani of Jhansi (c. 1830–1858), a queen, was one of them. To fight the British, she learned martial arts, shooting, and riding. One image shows her galloping on a horse, with a sword in each hand and the reins in her teeth. Rani of Jhansi led 14,000 soldiers against the British in 1858. She died in battle.



▲ **THE FIRST EMPEROR** of China, Shi Huangdi, united the country by defeating the local rulers of states. Although he ruled for only 14 years, from 221 B.C. to 207 B.C., he built a strong central government. He is credited with building the Great Wall of China, the largest human-made structure in the world.



▲ **THE ONLY RULING** empress in China's long history took the throne by violence and force. After Wu Ze Tian's husband died in 683,

she declared herself in charge and killed anyone who disagreed. The empress ruled to age 80 or so, when enemies killed her.

THINK PIECE!



Would you rather be a prince or a pauper (poor person)? How about a princess or a peon (peasant)? Take your pick. Then list the pros (advantages) and cons (disadvantages) of your chosen lifestyle.

“I know I have
the body of a weak and
feeble woman, but I have
the heart and stomach of
a king, and of a king of
England, too.”

—Elizabeth I, Queen of England





TITLE: Elizabeth I, Queen of England (1558–1603)

BORN: 1533

DIED: 1603

PARENTS: Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn

LANGUAGES: Greek, Latin, Spanish, French, English

GOOD BUDDIES: William Shakespeare, Edmund Spenser

DOWN DAYS: Spent time in prison in the Tower of London

DUBIOUS DISTINCTION:

Had her cousin Mary, Queen of Scots, beheaded

FASHION: Loved clothes

- Popularized the farthingale (a petticoat)
- Popularized the bum-roll (a type of bustle that made women as much as four feet wide at the hips)

SUITORS: King Philip II of Spain, Prince Eric of Sweden, "Ivan the Terrible" of Russia, Archduke Ferdinand of Austria and his brother Charles

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Defeated the Spanish Armada
- Established the Protestant Church of England

LEGACY: Reign called "The Golden Age"

PERSONALITY: Courageous, determined, wise, sharp-witted, moody, arrogant

Riches to Die For

If you want to know how rich monarchs of the past were, look at how they lived—

and at how they died. Many kings and queens spent the country's treasury on jewels, decorative thrones, crowns of gold, and other luxuries. Some even built huge

It is better to live
rich than to die rich.

—Samuel Johnson

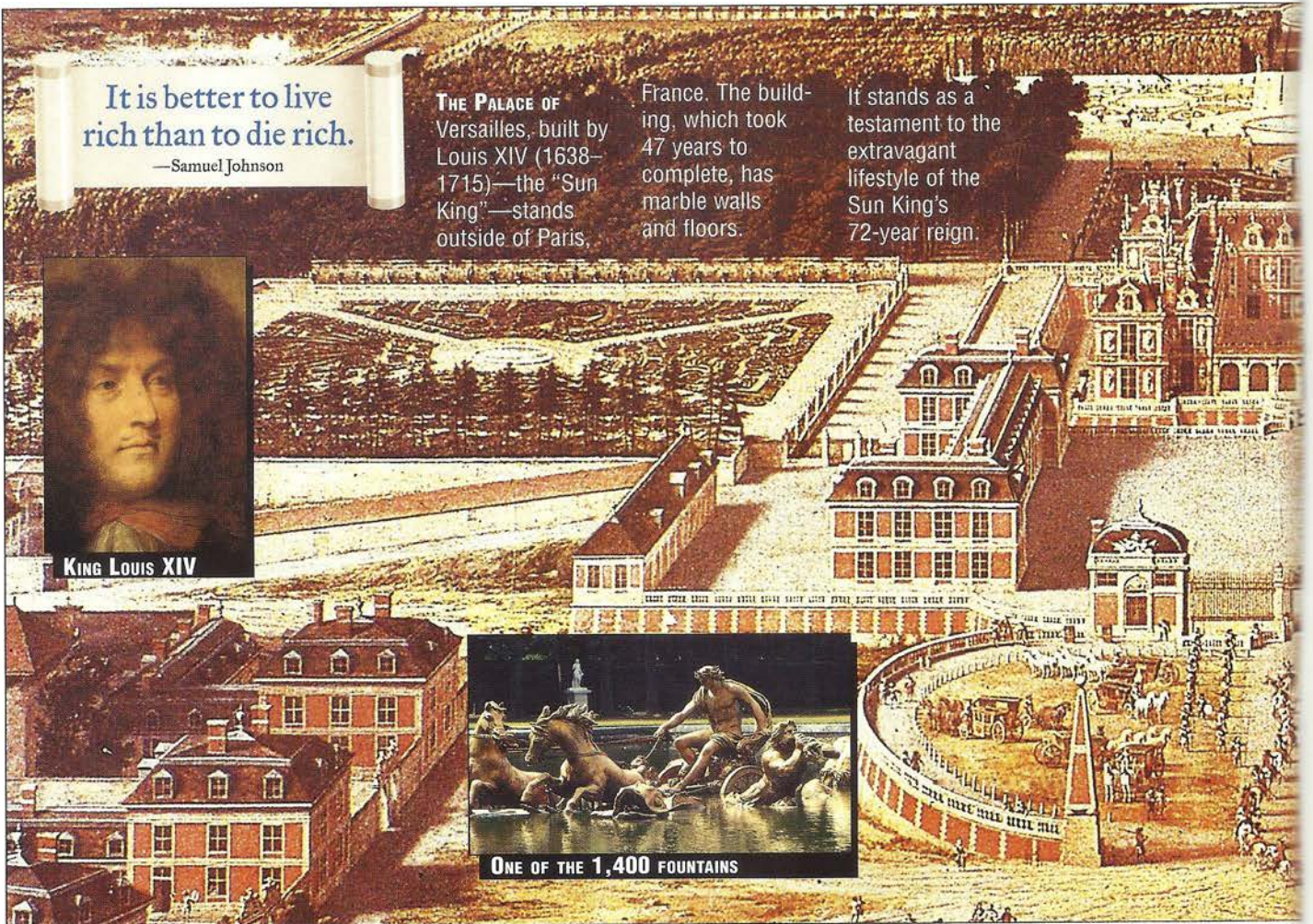
THE PALACE OF Versailles, built by Louis XIV (1638–1715)—the “Sun King”—stands outside of Paris,

France. The building, which took 47 years to complete, has marble walls and floors.

It stands as a testament to the extravagant lifestyle of the Sun King's 72-year reign.



KING LOUIS XIV



ONE OF THE 1,400 FOUNTAINS

▼ **SO-CALLED DEATH** pits at the ancient city of Ur (now in southern Iraq) contain the 3,500-year-old bodies of kings and queens—plus their servants. In one tomb, 74 servants committed suicide to die with their

ruler. Queen Puabi had the richest burial. Beads of gold, silver, lapis lazuli, and other jewels covered her upper body. She wore huge gold earrings, a golden crown, and long chains of gemstones.



▲ **THE PRIZE FOR** the most expensive outfit worn by a king may go to Artaxerxes II (404–359 B.C.). The Persian ruler wore a golden suit worth more than five million dollars in today's money. The bottom half was *pajamas*, which means trousers in the Persian language.



▲ **SINCE THE 1930s**, the kingdom of Saudi Arabia has grown rich thanks to oil. Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud has been king since 2005, and his personal wealth is estimated at 21 billion dollars.

► **THE CHINESE** people were forbidden to enter the home of their emperor. So the palace in Beijing became known as the Forbidden City. Each generation of emperors made the structure bigger and more extravagant. More than 2,000 hockey rinks could fit inside the 9,000 rooms. Today, the Forbidden City is a museum open to the public.

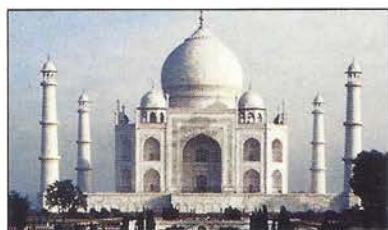
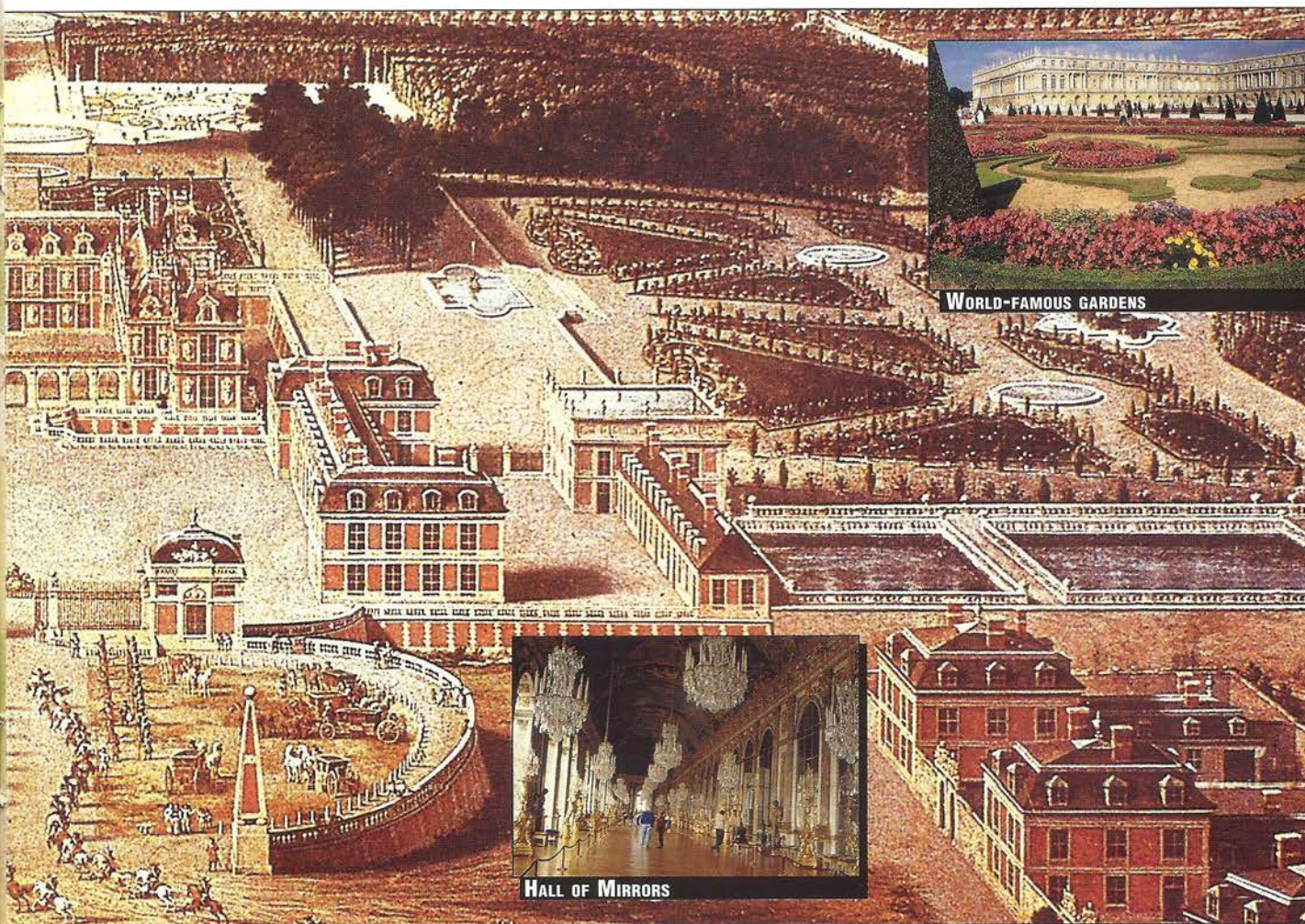


► **BUILT IN THE 13TH** and 14th centuries, the Alhambra Palace in southern Spain was the home of Moorish kings. (The Moors were Muslims from North Africa. They invaded Spain in the eighth century.) Some walls have words from the Koran.

palaces. But perhaps the most impressive examples of royal luxury aren't homes for the living. They're homes for the dead.

Egypt's mighty pyramids are royal

tombs. Many grave sites of Chinese emperors, Mayan rulers, and Indian rajas and rajas (queens and kings) are just as impressive.



▲ **SHAH JAHAN OF India (1592–1666)** built the impressive Taj Mahal as a tomb for his cherished wife, Mumtaz Mahalin. The 22-story marble building in Agra, India, took 20 years and thousands of humans and elephants to build.



▼ **EMPERORS OF the Chinese Qin and Han dynasties** had large armies. Soldiers wore silk uniforms and stood stiffly at attention in neat columns, never moving a muscle. After more than 2,100 years, some soldiers are still standing at the



tomb of their emperor. The soldiers are life-sized, but their uniforms and wooden weapons have rotted away. This army is made up of thousands of terracotta (clay) statues, an "eternal army" buried with the emperor to protect him after death.



▲ **SOME PHARAOS** built themselves massive pyramids for their future burial sites. King Khufu, for example, built the largest—the Great Pyramid of Giza near the Nile River in Egypt.

About 40 Egyptian kings are buried in an isolated area called the Valley of the Kings near the ancient city of Thebes. Their queens occupy separate tombs in the Valley of the Queens.

Crime and Punishment

Kings and queens have often put themselves above the law. Or they simply changed the law to suit their desires. They got rid of undesirables in several ways. The lucky ones ended up in prisons or insane asylums. The others ended up dead.

All kings is mostly rascallions.*

—Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

*rascallion: scoundrel

▼ **IN THE 16TH** century, Spanish conquerors murdered commoners and rulers alike in America. Francisco Pizarro kidnapped Atahualpa, leader of the Incas. Atahualpa offered Pizarro a huge ransom in exchange for freedom. Pizarro agreed. Atahualpa's people amassed a fortune in gold and silver. Pizarro took the loot but murdered Atahualpa anyway. The two-thousand-year-old Inca Empire died with him.



▲ **KING HMMURABI** of Babylon posted a seven-foot pillar for all his subjects to see. Carved on it is his famous Code of Laws, all 282 of them. The most common punishment was death: for stealing, selling stolen goods, perjury (lying), looting, casting a spell or curse, and other "crimes." Lesser criminals had body parts cut off. If a slave said, "Thou art not my master," he lost an ear. If doctors botched a surgery, they lost their hands.



▲ **SHAKA ZULU** (c. 1787–1828) built an empire out of a few Zulu clans. He broke all the rules to do it, starting the day he was born. Shaka's father and mother belonged to different clans—an illegal



union. Shaka became chief through sheer violence. Breaking traditional laws of war, he waged bloody battles across southern Africa. He killed

many people, not always justly, and grew violently insane. His own brothers finally killed him. Shaka's powerful empire stood for another 51 years.

◀ **SOME MONARCHS** got away with murder, but abuse of power can backfire. The Russian people were unhappy with the luxurious lifestyle of the Romanov monarch Czar Nicholas II (1868–1918) and his family. So, the Russian Revolution broke out. The revolutionaries imprisoned and eventually shot Czar Nicholas and his family.



Henry VIII and His Wives



CATHERINE OF ARAGON



ANNE BOLEYN



JANE SEYMOUR



ANNE OF CLEVES



CATHERINE HOWARD



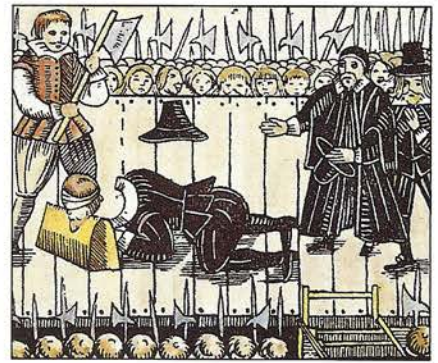
CATHERINE PARR

▲ **KING HENRY VIII** of England (1491–1547) falsely accused enemies of treason and ordered them beheaded. One victim was Sir

Thomas More, Henry's longtime good friend. The Pope wouldn't annul Henry's first marriage to Catherine of Aragon. So the

king simply started a whole new religion, the Church of England. Heartless Henry even executed two queens, his second and

fifth wives (Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard). Their crime may have been that they didn't produce a male heir.



▲ **CHARLES I** (1600–1649) of England disagreed with Parliament. The king wanted to decide on all matters, but Parliament felt it

should have a say in matters of religion, foreign policy, and finance. How was the disagreement settled? The king was executed.



CHECK IT OUT!
What famous European queen spent time in prison but had one of the longest reigns in the history of her country? Hint: When she became queen, she imprisoned her cousin.
(answer on back cover)

◀ **THE BASEMENTS** of many European castles have dark, dank chambers called dungeons. The king or queen of the castle sent enemies to rot and die there. Some dungeons had complex torture machines—racks, chains, spikes, and other evil devices. The torture chamber at left was used during the Spanish Inquisition.

▲ **IN MEDIEVAL** times, the religion of the king or queen became the religion of the people. Subjects who chose otherwise often ended up dead, exiled, or in prison. In a 13th-century campaign called

the Inquisition, Catholics slaughtered Muslims, Jews, and Protestants. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain led the bloodbath in the 15th century. The Inquisition lasted into the early 19th century.



KINGS AND QUEENS TODAY

Many of the world's great monarchies have disappeared. Some have been violently overthrown, while others have been peacefully replaced by elected leaders. But kings and queens still reign in more than 40 countries, with varying degrees of political power.

► **FAIRY TALES ARE** like this: A beautiful woman meets a prince, gets married, and lives happily ever after. Sometimes she has to kiss a frog first. American actress Grace Kelly lived that fairy tale (except for the part about the frog). By marrying Prince Rainier of the tiny principality of Monaco, she became Her Serene Highness Princess Grace. The fairy tale ended tragically in 1982, when the princess died in a car accident.



▲ ANNA ANDERSON MANAHAN



▲ ANASTASIA

◀ **A CLAIM TO A** throne relies solely on heredity. In the past, people had no way of proving or disproving a royal's bloodline. A non-royal "heir" could easily sneak onto the throne. Today, DNA testing that identifies genes passed from parent to child can reveal phony royals. Anna Anderson Manahan claimed to be Anastasia, heir to the Russian throne. Her legal attempts ended when proof could not be found.

God Save the Queen!
—British salute



▲ **IN THE SMALL,** oil-rich country of Qatar, Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani (above) continues the rule of the Al Thani family that

began nearly two centuries ago. He has been emir since deposing (forcing from power) his father, Khalifa bin Hamad, in 1995.

TRY THIS!

Imperial (royal) crowns are so heavy that kings and queens have to practice standing, sitting, and walking with them. How long can you balance a heavy book on your head? How does the extra load change the way you walk and stand?

► **THE CROWN** prince of Japan, Naruhito (second from left), is heir to the world's oldest royal house. His family's reign began more than 2,000 years ago. During those 2,000 years,

princes and kings married other worthy royals. But Naruhito's father, Emperor Akihito (second from right), broke that long-standing tradition and married a commoner, as did Naruhito.



Modern Monarchs
Countries and principalities in purple have monarchs today. Dozens of other countries, many of them former colonies, are part of kingdoms. For example, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is also the sovereign (royal leader) of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and many other nations—even though these nations are politically independent.

► **WHEN GEORGE VI** of Britain died in 1952, his daughter Elizabeth II became queen. She remains queen today, but her duties are mainly ceremonial. Real power lies with the prime minister and Parliament. Other countries, such as Sweden and Belgium, also have a king and queen whose political



power is limited by a constitution. These countries are called constitutional monarchies.



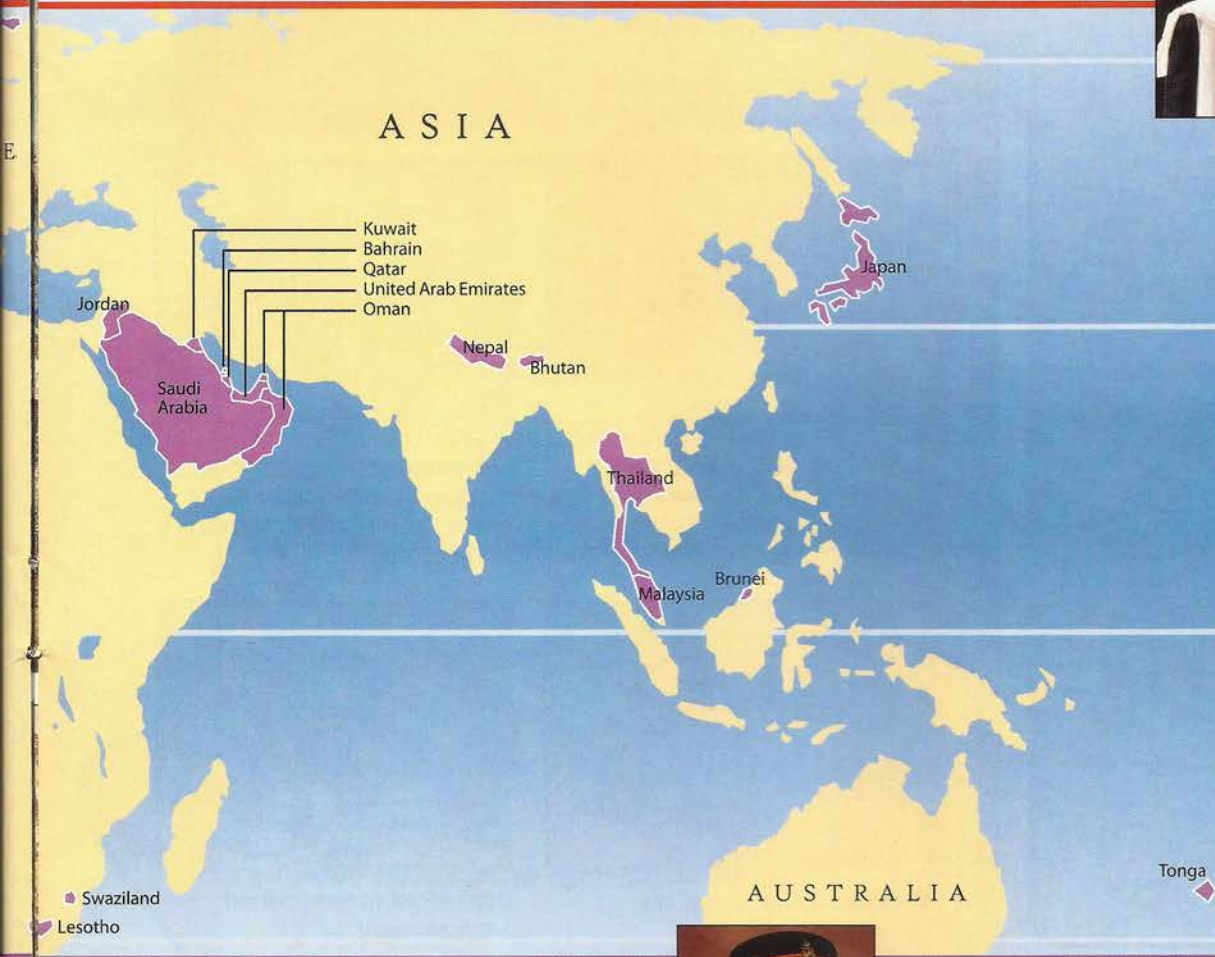
► **THE RULER OF TINY** Liechtenstein is called a prince. Today, Prince Hans-Adam II and his family reside in this castle located in the capital city



of Vaduz. The royal lineage of Liechtenstein goes back to 1140, under various members of the Hapsburg dynasty.



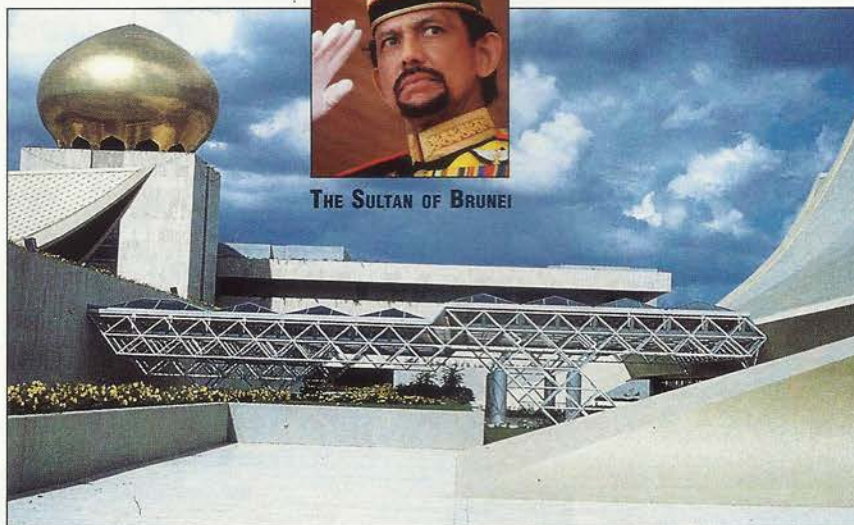
▲ **A KING HUSSEIN OF** Jordan (1935–1999) took the throne in 1953, at age 17. In 1978, to his subject's surprise, he married an American who became Queen Noor (above, right). Upon the king's death, his son Abdullah II took over power, and his wife, Rani (above, left), became queen. Jordan is a constitutional monarchy (a monarchy with a constitution to protect the people).



► **THE SULTAN OF** Brunei heads a government that consists primarily of family members. The sultan lives in the largest residential palace in the world. It cost nearly \$500 million to build. Completed in 1984, it boasts nearly 2,000 rooms, 257 bathrooms, and a garage that can hold 110 cars.



THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI



TRY THIS!

Some European children memorize all the kings and queens in their country's history. Could you? Choose any country, even the United States. Memorize the leaders in chronological order. Then show off your knowledge to friends and teachers. Tip: Set the names to a rap rhythm to remember them more easily.