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THIS DAY IN HISTORY:

The British royals visit for the first time

BY LAUREN MURPHY
Of No Adults Allowed

On June 7, 1939 the king of Britain came to America. King George VI (the sixth), and his wife, Elizabeth, visited New York City and Washington D.C.

Seeing royalty is always cool, but this particular visit was important because no ruler of Great Britain had ever set foot in America, not even when they were a colony. Before America was its own country, it was actually a British colony, which means that even though it was not attached to Great Britain, it still belonged to them. This was working okay for Great Britain, they had more land, more resources and more royal subjects to tax.

America, on the other hand, was not a huge fan of this arrangement. Since the people living in the colony weren't in Great Britain, they had no idea where their money was going.

The king would say, "Give me money."

When the people would ask why he'd say, "Because I'm the king and I told you so." And that was the end of the discussion.

There were other issues as well which are stated as the king's "sins" in the declaration of independence, but that

comes later. In fairness to the king and Britain, they had spent a huge amount of money defending the American colonies from other world powers and the taxes were needed to cover those costs.

Some angry people decided to band together and decided they were going to make their own government. The only problem was they couldn't make their own government until they were their own nation, so they had to overthrow the British rule in the colonies.

At the time Britain was one of – if not the most – powerful nation in the world. Since it was a colony, America relied on Britain for food, trade, troops, and more. A successful revolution would require not only good reasons, but the support of the other colonists. They drafted a document called, the Declaration of Independence, which was a letter to the monarchy. It explained, or rather declared, that America was now its own country.

Unsurprisingly, Britain didn't like this much and they fought back for seven years. Eventually, Britain surrendered and America claimed independence. As you might imagine, the two countries were not the best of friends; in fact, they



FILE PHOTO
Queen Elizabeth (left) and King George VI (in the top hat) visit the Mount Vernon home of America's first president, George Washington.

were very bitter towards each other.

After 150 years of strained relations with Britain, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt decided it would be best if we all got along. He invited the king and his wife to come to America and have the perfect visit. They visited New York, Washington D.C. Roosevelt even served the royals hotdogs at a picnic.

By the end of the visit, the king and the president had begun talking about strengthening the fragile political bonds.

In September of 1939, four months after their visit, Britain (and France) declared war. This was the beginning of World War II for them, Two years later, America joined its renewed allies in the fight.



Who came first, King George or ... King George?

Throughout history it seems that ruling authorities have a general lack of creativity when it comes to naming their children. King George I (the first) ruled Great Britain and Ireland from 1714 until his death in 1727. When his wife gave birth to their first child, a son, and they called him ... George. He was George II (the second).

George II switched things up a little and named his son Fredrick. But when Fredrick saw his baby boy and named him George the III (third). George III named his son George IV (the fourth).

George IV named his son Edward. Edward had a daughter named Victoria who had a son Albert. Albert named his son George V (the fifth).

George V named his son George VI, who was the last king of Britain. George VI was the father

of the current queen of England, Elizabeth II (the second).

As you can see there are a lot of people with the same name, the only difference was the marks behind their names. The symbols next to their names are roman numerals. I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X (that's one through 10). one=I, so II is just two ones, which is two. Three I's is ... you guessed it, three. V stands for the number 5, if the I is before the V, then it's 5-1, if it's after it's 5+1. The same rule applies for X (X stands for 10). IX is 10-1, which is nine.

Below are some problems for you to try and work out:

- a). III b). XII c). IV d). X

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