



Westminster
Abbey



Coronation Club

What happens in a coronation?

This activity pack is inspired by the third Coronation Club episode. You can use it alongside the video to take part in the activities as you go or as a stand-alone resource to explore coronations.

Either way, there are plenty of activities for children to enjoy while supporting their learning.

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How do coronations happen?

We know a crown (or two) goes on the monarch's head, but ...



What else do you think happens?



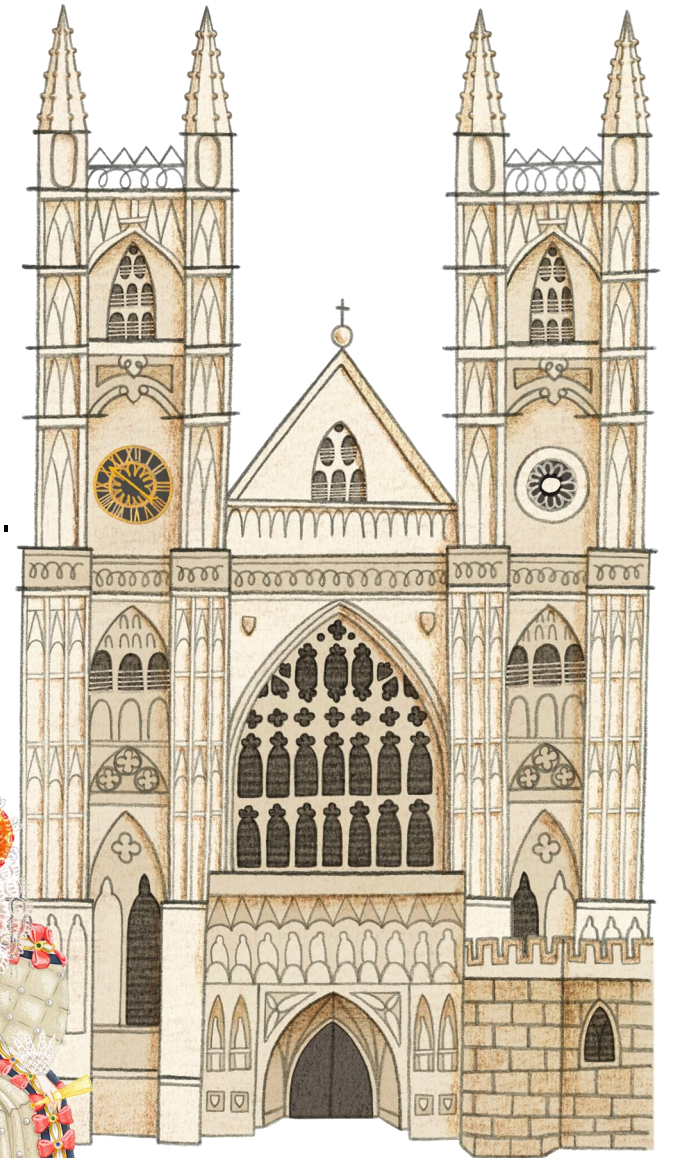
Discuss with someone.

Remember, a coronation is more than just a crown.
In fact, some past coronations lasted up to five hours.
So, there must be lots more involved.



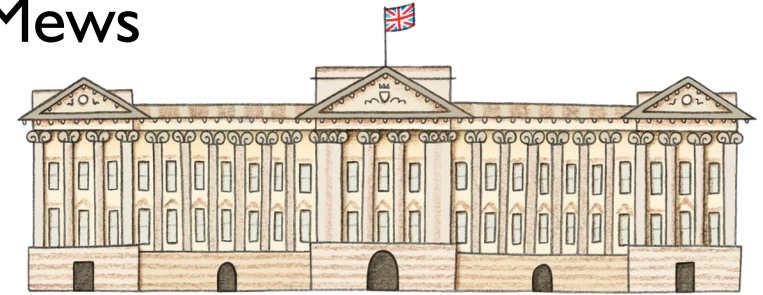
Coronations happen at Westminster Abbey,
so an important stage is getting the king or queen here.

How does the monarch travel to the Abbey?
Where do they start their journey?



Our Roving Reporter Investigates... **The Royal Mews**

Welcome to Buckingham Palace!
The official London residence of the monarch.



Sadly, there's no time for me to pop in and have a cup of tea today because I'm here to find out how, in the past, monarchs travelled to Westminster Abbey on Coronation Day. To find out more, I'm popping behind the Palace to visit the **Royal Mews**.

Wow, look at this coach! It looks like something out of a fairy tale, like Cinderella's coach:

It's called the **Gold State Coach**.



It must weigh a tonne...
In fact, it weighs four tonnes!

It's so heavy that eight horses are needed to pull it and it can only move at walking pace.

But that's ok, because people lining the streets can see the face of the monarch as it passes by.



Lou

Our Roving Reporter Investigates... **The Royal Mews**

There's so much decoration here. These are funny creatures, aren't they? They look like men but they've got fish's tails. They're called Tritons and they are announcing the new monarch using these shells.



I know you must be wondering whether this is made from solid gold but it's actually made from wood and it's got a thin layer of gold leaf painted on it. It certainly looks like a wonderful way to ride around London ... but my sources have told me that it's not very comfortable to sit in! Queen Victoria actually refused to ride in it and Queen Elizabeth II had to have a hot water bottle under her seat on her coronation day to help her keep warm!

So, traditionally, the soon-to-be crowned monarch would be picked up at Buckingham Palace and travel by coach to Westminster Abbey.



**If you were going somewhere special,
how would you like to travel?**



Lou

A Closer Look: The Liber Regalis

This manuscript is the Liber Regalis, or Royal Book. It was made over 600 years ago!

It may have been designed to help people organise and run coronations, like a really old instruction book.



Ewen

Details of coronations have changed through the years, but the basic running order has remained the same.



Gemma

A Closer Look: The Liber Regalis

The illustrations, or illuminations, show a step-by-step guide on the crowning of:



a king alone,



a queen alone,



and a king and queen together.

It also contains the words that the monarch must say and music that should be included. So, the Liber Regalis is really a ceremonial instruction book and a really old Christian 'Order of Service' that has been used for many hundreds of years.

Shout it out: God Save the...

After St Edward's Crown is put on the monarch's head, everyone in the Abbey shouts...



“God save the King!”

Or

“God save the Queen!”

Not once, but three times!

Practice shouting out together! It can get loud so if anyone isn't good with lots of noise you might want to cover your ears!



A Priest's Perspective

Why does the monarch receive Holy Communion?

Holy Communion, also known as the **Eucharist**, is of central importance to Christians and the monarch is the Head of the Church of England. It is fitting then that as part of the coronation the monarch would traditionally share in Holy Communion by receiving bread and wine which have been blessed.



Canon Tricia

This receiving of sacred bread and wine goes back to a particular meal, often called **the Last Supper**. This was a meal that Jesus shared with his friends and followers, his disciples, just before he was arrested and put to death. At that meal, Jesus took bread and as he broke it he gave it to them, he told his friends that his body would be broken and that he would be poured out, just like the wine, and that he would be offering himself for them and for the whole world.

Jesus asked them to remember him every time from then on that they ate and drank bread and wine together.

When, in a coronation, a new monarch receives a small piece of bread and a sip of wine in Holy Communion they are stepping into the invitation, to draw close to Jesus, to receive from him and to be given food and strength for all that lies ahead. They are also reminded that they too are to give themselves for others, just as Jesus did.

A moment for reflection ...

Inspired by her faith, Elizabeth II called herself the “people’s servant”. How do you give back to others?

Time, help and kindness are all ways of giving. Who do you know that gives a lot to other people?

How could you show that you are grateful to them?

Who can you be kind to every day, every week, every month?

Stages of a coronation

Thanks to the Liber Regalis we know what is supposed to happen in a coronation and the same six stages have happened for hundreds of years. In Episode 2 we found out about two of the stages:



when the monarch is anointed with holy oil to show they have been set apart by God.
The most sacred part of the ceremony.



when the monarch receives all the Coronation Regalia like the sceptres and orb.

A closer look at the “royal book” reminded us of a very important stage of the coronation:



when St Edward's crown is put on the monarch's head and people shout, “God Save The King/Queen” three times.

Stages of a coronation

And there are three more important stages of a coronation:



when the monarch processes out of the Abbey wearing the Imperial State Crown and the National Anthem is sung.



when the monarch is presented to the people and must swear an oath to uphold the law and the church.



when the monarch moves from the Coronation Chair and sits on the throne. Some of those in the Abbey kneel and promise to serve them, and they receive Holy Communion, or the Eucharist.



Out of Order

In what order do these stages happen?

Try and work out when in the ceremony each stage might happen - and why.

On the next page we'll remind you of all six stages. You might want to print them out, cut them up and move them around. You might want to work together in a small group to come up with ideas.

Be careful not to look at the page after that, because that's where the answers are!

Good Luck!

Out of Order



Out of Order answers

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



An Abbey Tale

Can you imagine it's your coronation – your Big Day! Nothing could possibly go wrong, right? After all the Abbey even has its own 'Coronation Instruction Manual', the Liber Regalis, detailing everything you might need to say or do. But things do go wrong. A few kings and queens have had coronation catastrophes!



Richard II, only 10 years-old at the time of his coronation in 1377, fell asleep midway through and had to be carried out of the Abbey. I bet he woke up for the party afterwards.

You'd think you'd scrub up for such a big event – particularly when it's all about you. But not Henry IV. When the Archbishop of Canterbury lowered the crown upon the new king's head, he was shocked to notice it was teeming with lice!

But one monarch had so much more to deal with at her coronation. Queen Victoria was crowned in 1838 and only 19 years-old at the time. Imagine her excitement and hope that, above all else, her coronation would go without any mishaps.

How wrong she was. The Coronation Ring was way too big her for tiny fingers – so a smaller copy was made. But the Archbishop, who obviously hadn't read the Liber Regalis, tried to put the ring on the wrong finger. Pushing and straining until - pop! - it was on. Ouch!

It was only later when the queen was able to soak her hand in icy water that, at long last, she was able to take the wretched thing off.

If that wasn't bad enough, one of the bishops told her the service was done and dusted but before she could leave the Abbey they realised that he had accidentally turned over two pages of the service book. Victoria was called back so they could finish the coronation properly.

But the new queen took all these disasters in her stride and, at the end of the day, commented how her coronation day was 'the proudest of my life'.



Sing a Song: **National Anthem Karaoke**

There's one last part – the closing procession – when the monarch processes out of the Abbey and the National Anthem is sung as they leave.

God save our gracious King!*

Long live our noble King!

God save the King!

Send him victorious,

Happy and glorious,

Long to reign over us:

God save the King.

*King or queen depending on the monarch





A Queen's Quiz

In which book can this illumination be found?



- a) The Order of Service
- b) The Liber Regalis
- c) The Bible

Which queen's coronation could have used a bit more preparation?



Why does the monarch take Eucharist?

- a) It allows them to remember Jesus.
- b) Because it's a long service and they might get peckish.
- c) Because they want to show everyone they're the monarch.



A Queen's Quiz

In which book can this illumination be found?



b) The Liber Regalis

Which queen's coronation could have used a bit more preparation?

Queen Victoria



Why does the monarch take Eucharist?

a) It allows them to remember Jesus.

Become a regal quizmaster

If you enjoyed our Queen's Quiz, you might want to make your own questions to challenge your friends and family. If you write questions in small groups, you could even combine them into rounds and host the ultimate coronation quiz! Here are our top tips of things to think about...

Types of questions

You could use different types of questions, such as:

- True or false: Ask if a fact is true or false
- Multiple choice: Give a choice of answers to pick from
- Matching answers: You could match words to pictures, for example
- Images or visuals: Name the object! What is this place?
- Music round: Can they guess the song?
- Odd one out: Which image or word is different from the others?
- Drawing a picture: Can they draw an object you suggest?



It would be good to have a variety of different questions to keep people on their toes!

How many questions?

How long do you want your quiz to last? A good number might be about 10 questions, and you might have 3 or 4 questions about each topic. It's up to you.

How hard are your questions?

If you're a coronation expert, you might want to use slightly trickier questions! But it's best to have some that are less challenging too, so everyone can join in.

Don't make questions so hard that people can't take a guess!

Sometimes it's easier to start with the answer.

If you want the answer to be 'the Coronation Spoon' then it might be easier to start with this and then think of a question. It's also a good idea to make sure your answers are fairly short - no more than a few words

Create a Craft: Make a coronation viewer

Inspired by the events of a coronation service and the Queen Victoria Coronation Peepshow, why not make your own coronation viewer? You'll find templates on the next pages.

You will need:

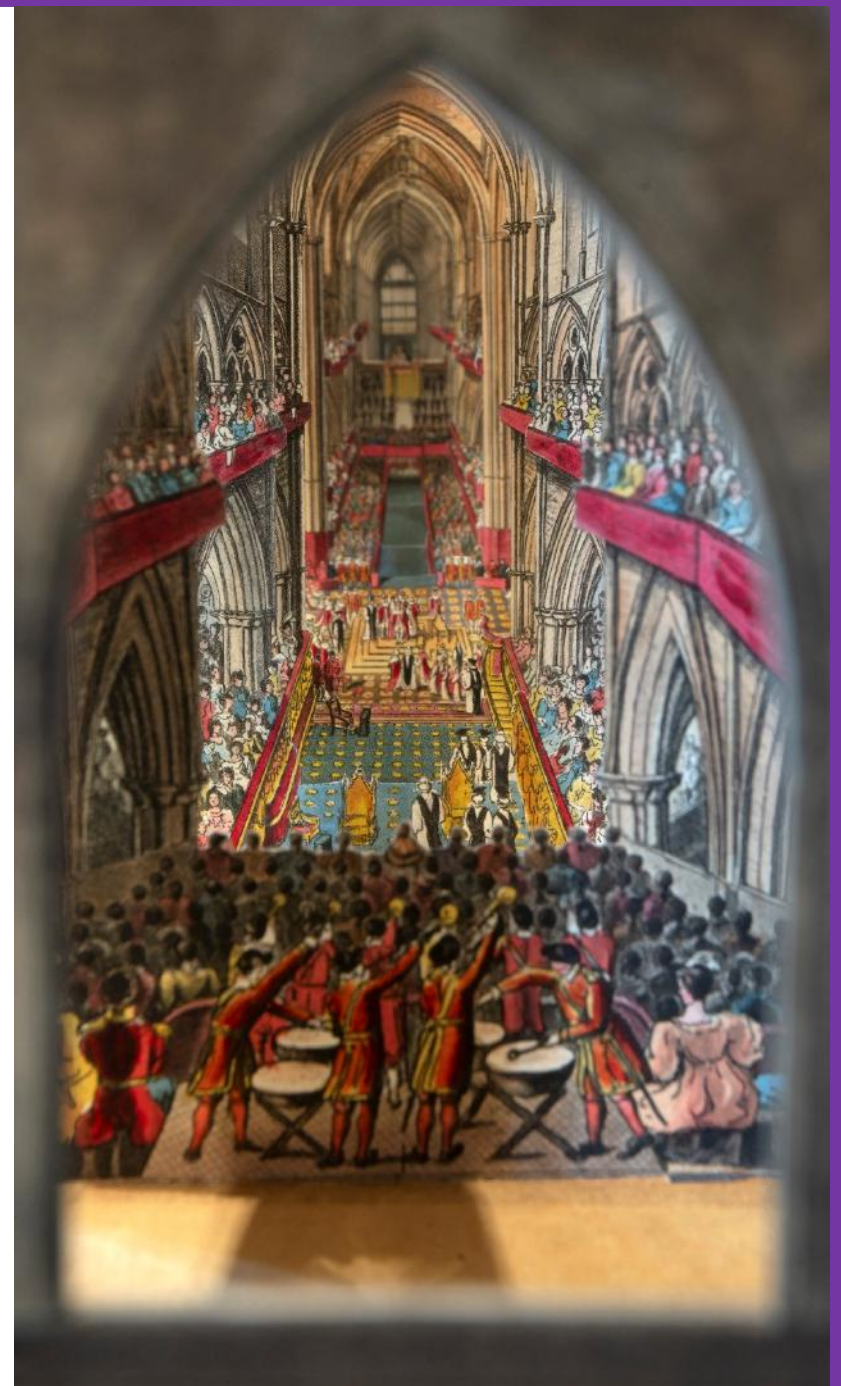
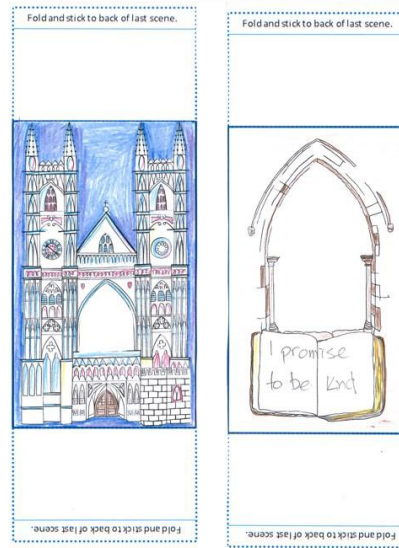
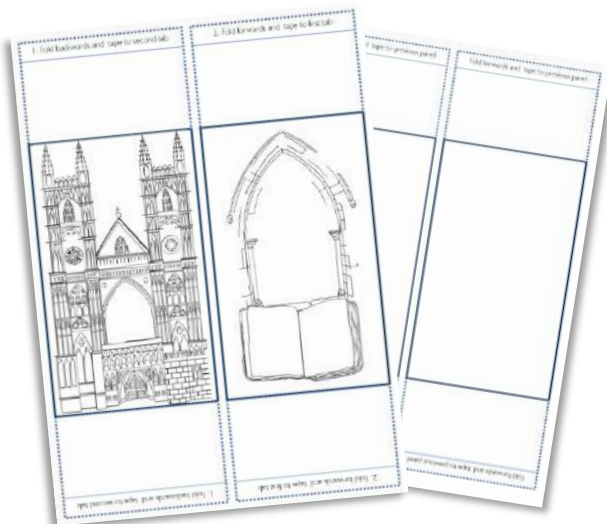
- Thick paper or card
- Scissors
- Colouring pencils or pens
- Sticky tape

Step one:

Start by printing a set of templates. We have a complete set, a clearer set or you could design your own!

Step two:

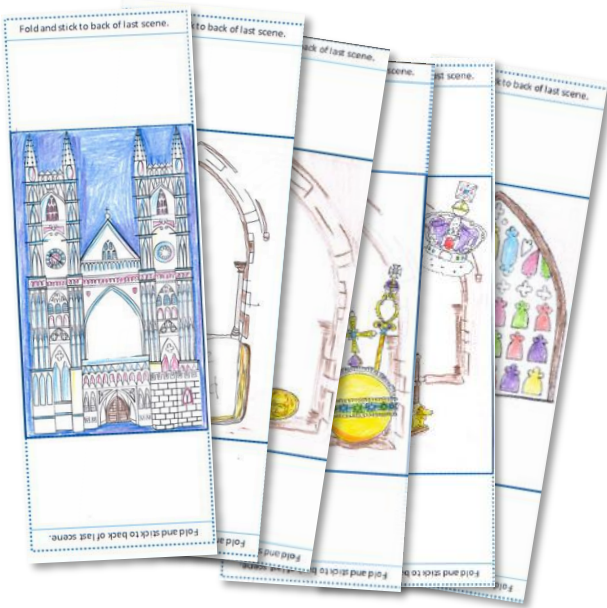
Colour or design your templates while they are flat and together. Get creative!



Make a Coronation Viewer

Step three:

Cut your templates into six separate strips. Almost fold them in half, snip into the windows & cut them out.



Step four:

Fold the tabs on the front strip backwards. Fold the tabs on all other strips forwards. Tape tabs together & build up your viewer.



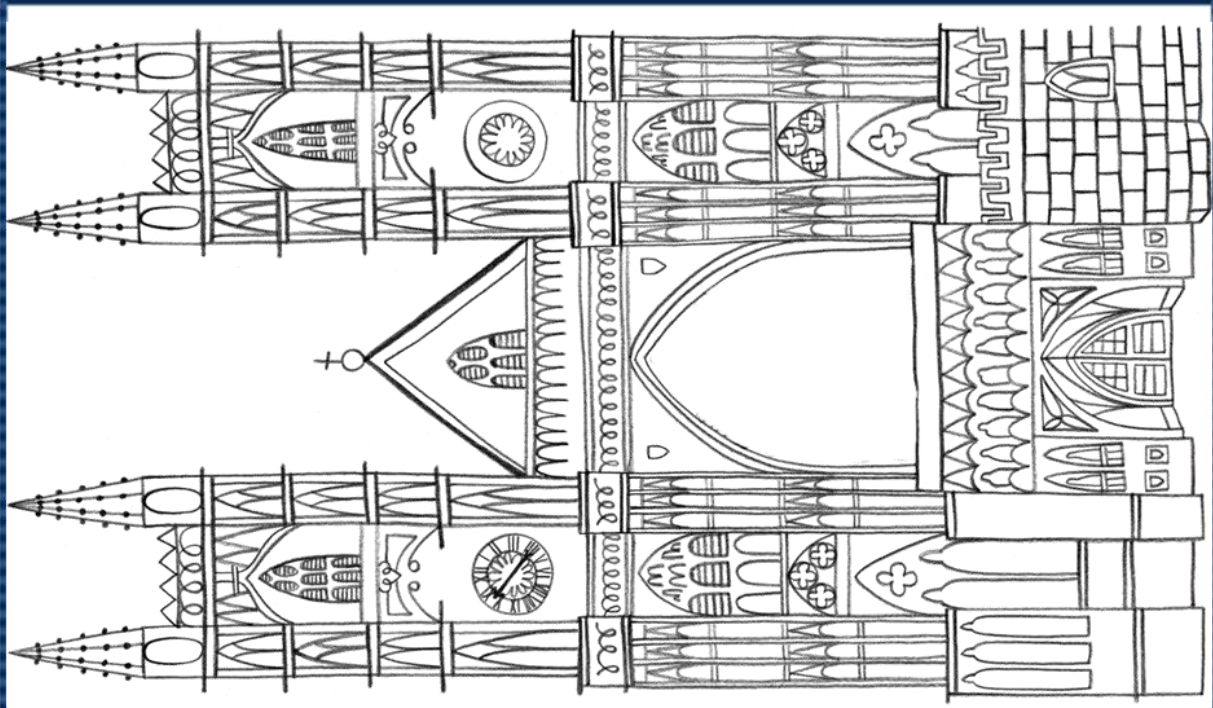
Step five: Take a peep inside...



1. Fold backwards and tape to second tab



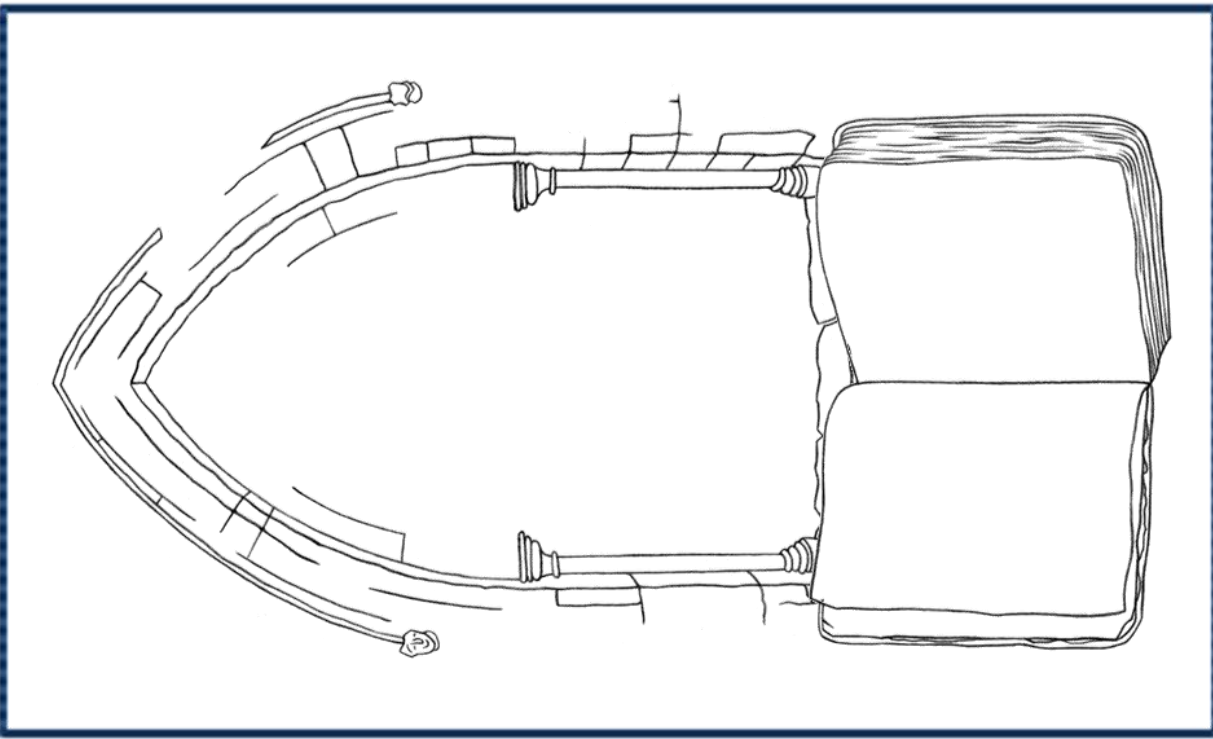
Westminster Abbey



The west front of Westminster Abbey represents the view the monarch sees as they arrive at the Abbey for their coronation.

1. Fold backwards and tape to second tab

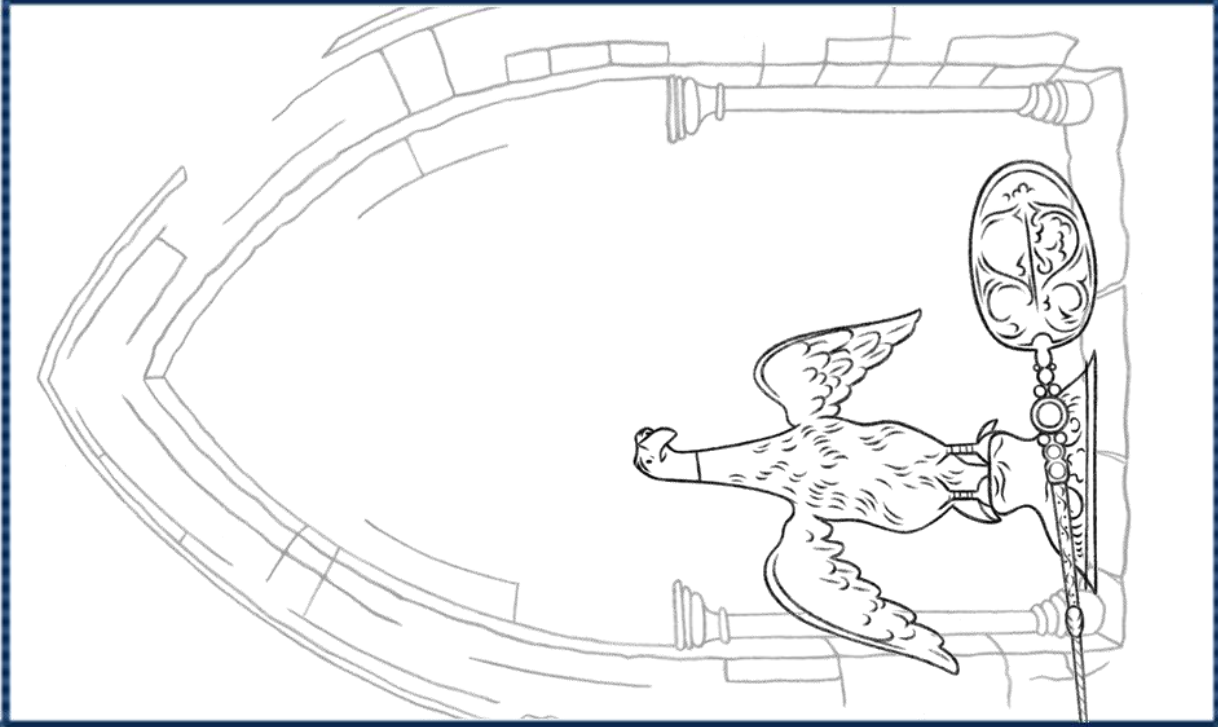
2. Fold forwards and tape to first tab



This empty book represents the Oaths, promises, the monarch makes. It is blank so you can write your own promise here.

2. Fold forwards and tape to first tab

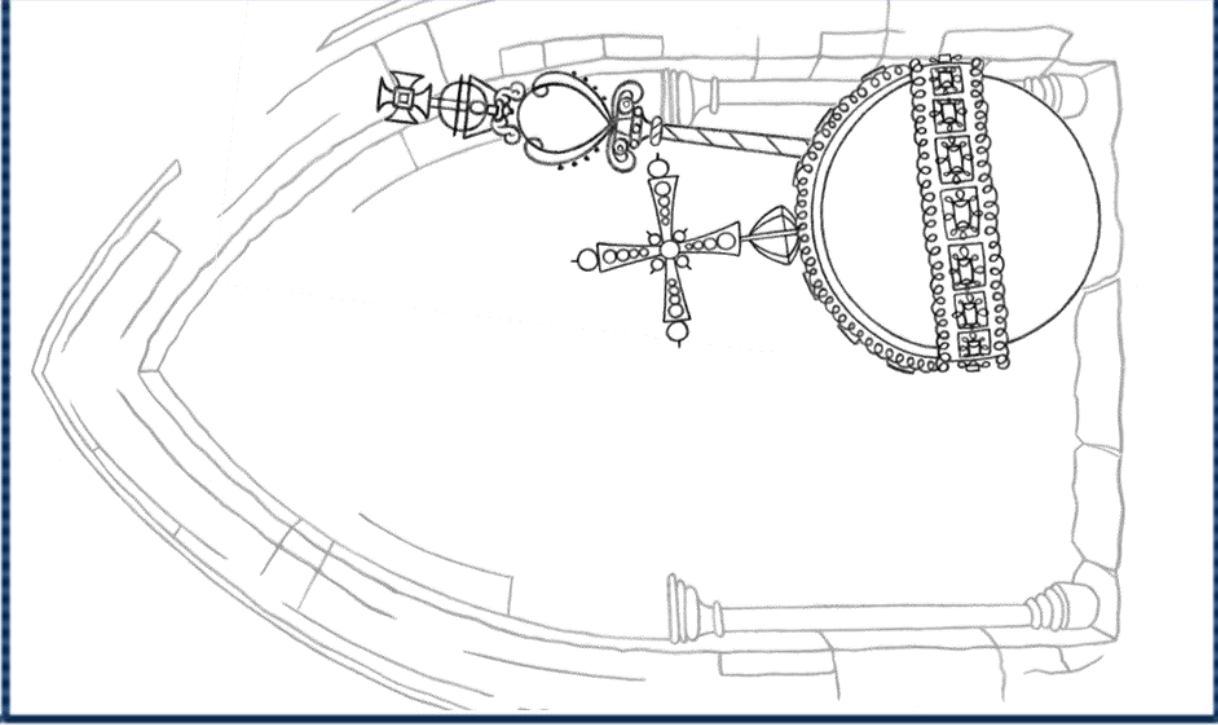
3. Fold forwards and tape to second panel



The Ampulla and Anointing spoon represent the Anointing when the monarch's hands, chest and head are marked with holy oil.

3. Fold forwards and tape to second panel

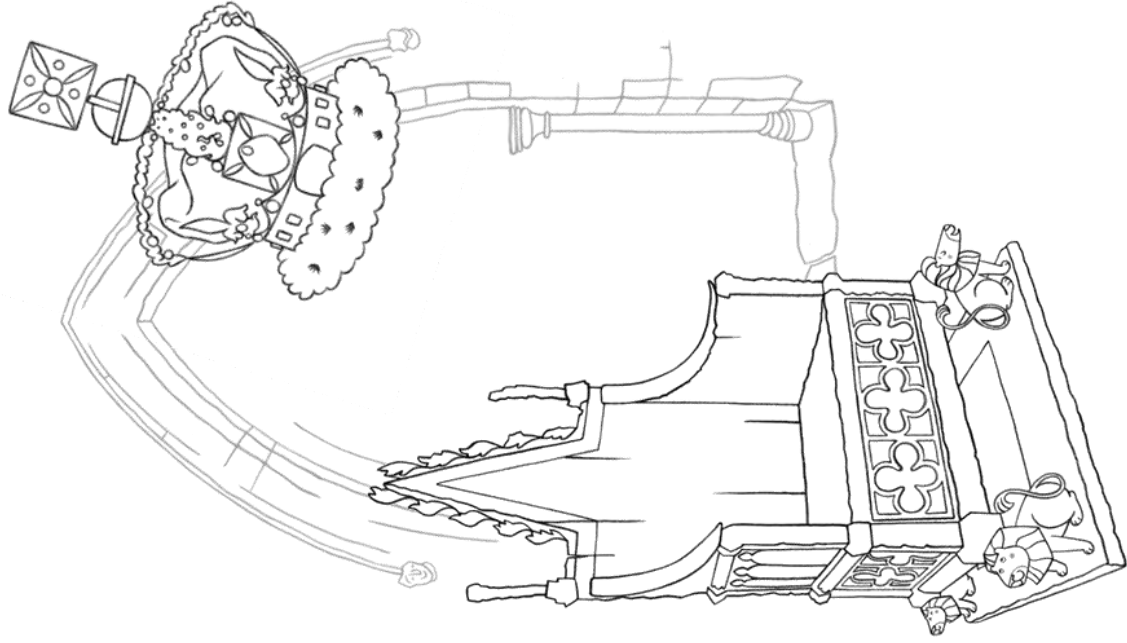
4. Fold forwards and tape to third panel



The Orb and Sceptre (with cross) have been chosen to represent the regalia that are used during the Investiture.

4. Fold forwards and tape to third panel

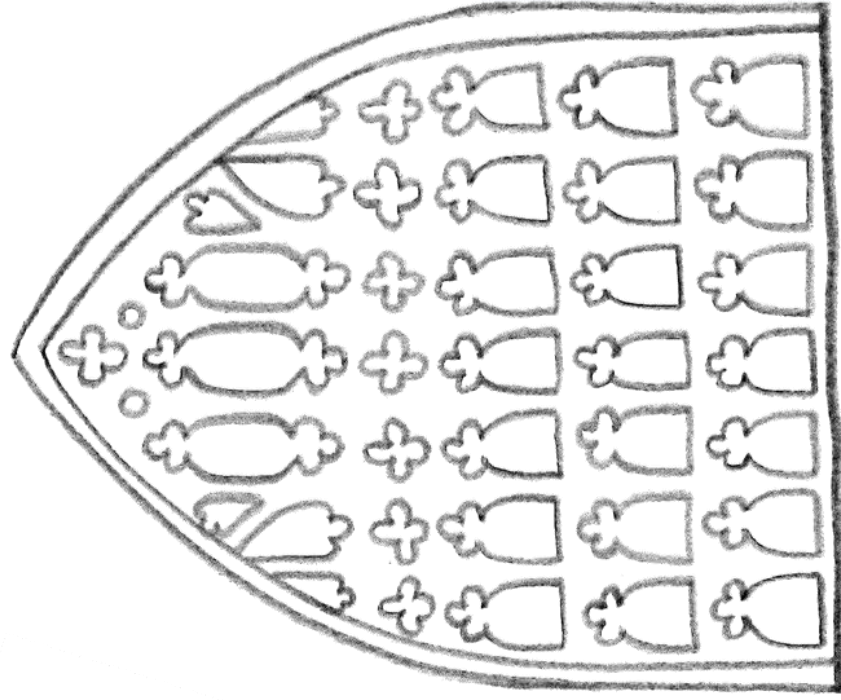
5. Fold forwards and tape to fourth panel



The Coronation Chair and crown are used here to represent the Crowning. St Edward's crown is used in the service and the Imperial State Crown is worn as the monarch leaves the Abbey.

5. Fold forwards and tape to fourth panel

6. Fold forwards and tape to fifth panel



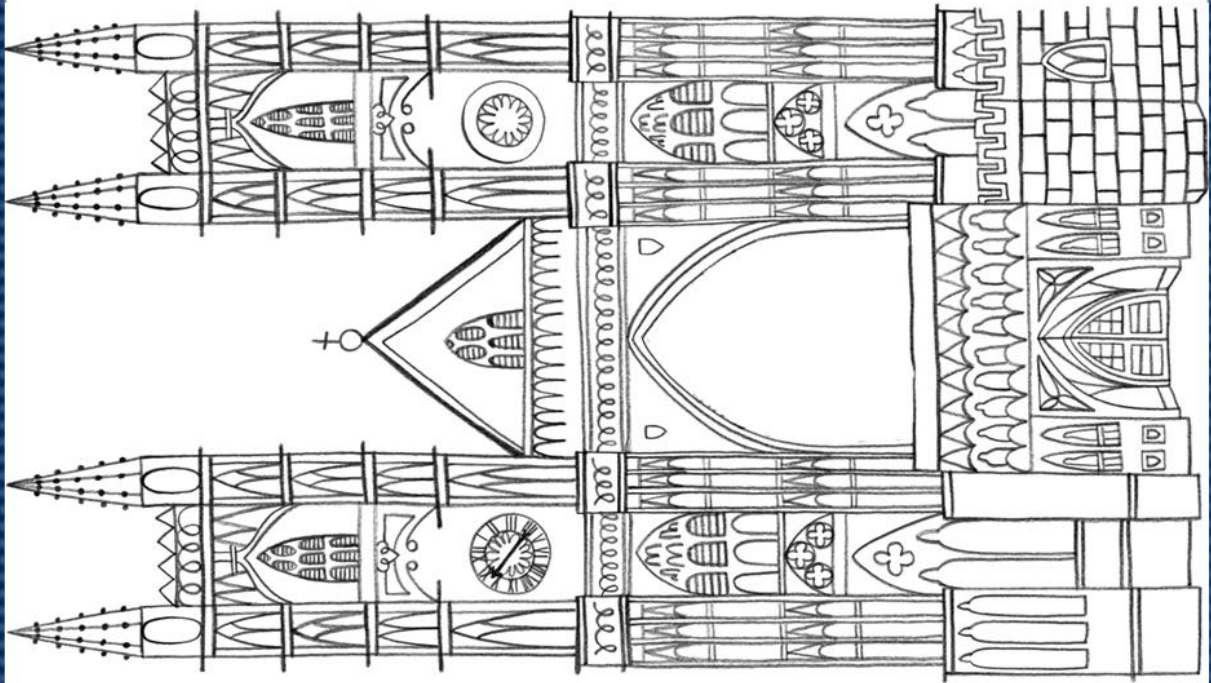
This illustration marks the beautiful brightly coloured West Window of the Abbey that monarch would face as they Process out of the Abbey.

6. Fold forwards and tape to fifth panel

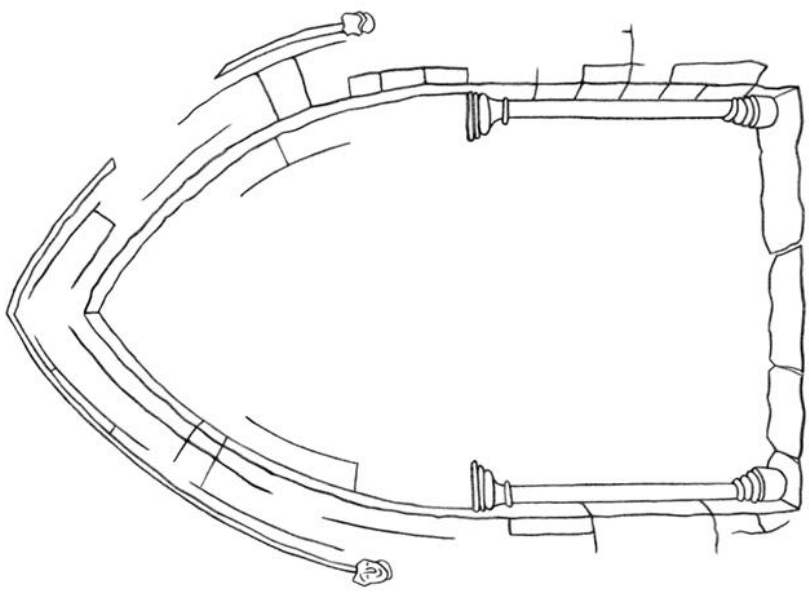
1. Fold backwards and tape to second tab



Westminster Abbey



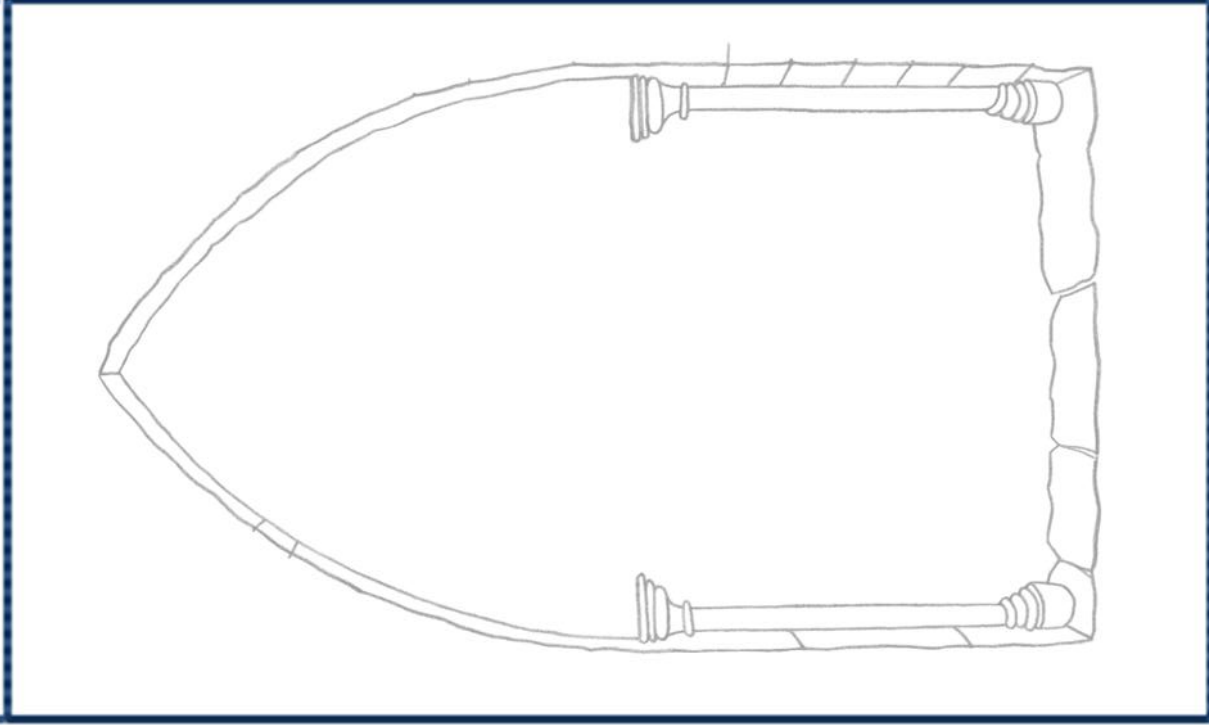
2. Fold forwards and tape to first tab



1. Fold backwards and tape to second tab

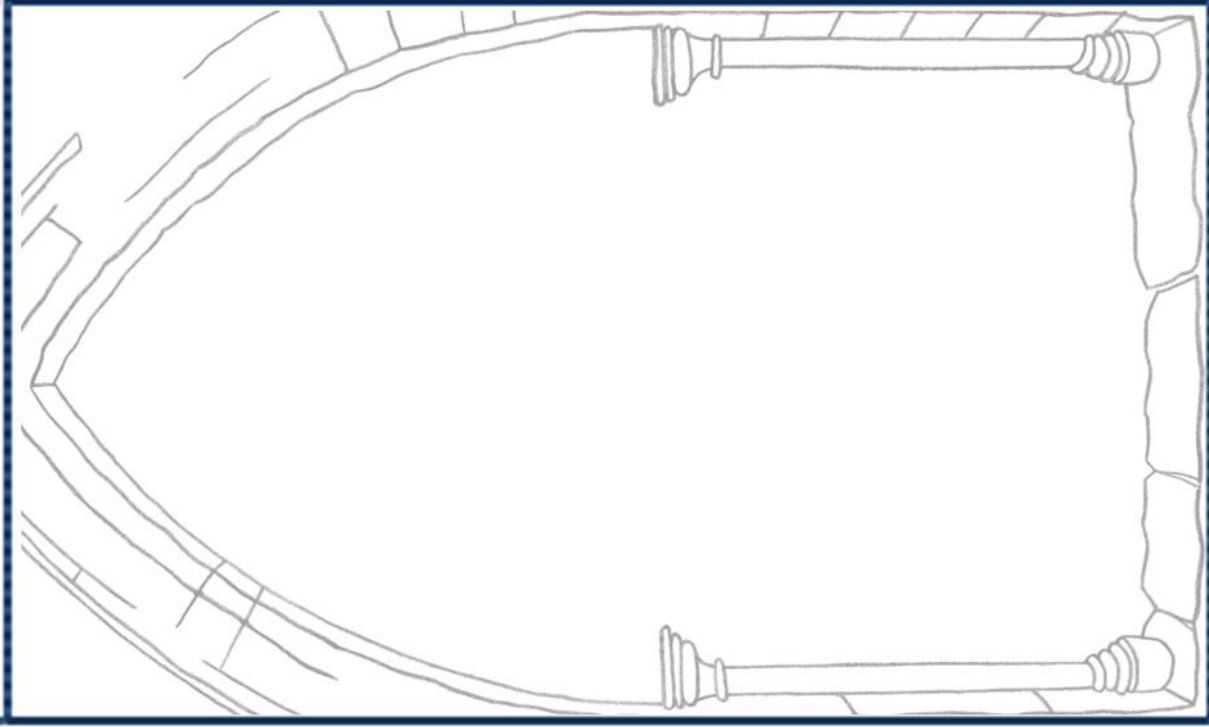
2. Fold forwards and tape to first tab

3. Fold forwards and tape to second panel



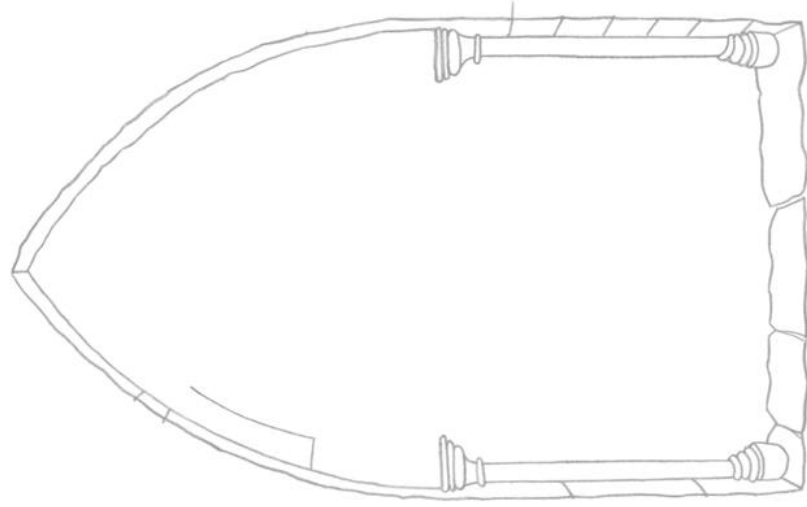
3. Fold forwards and tape to second panel

4. Fold forwards and tape to third panel



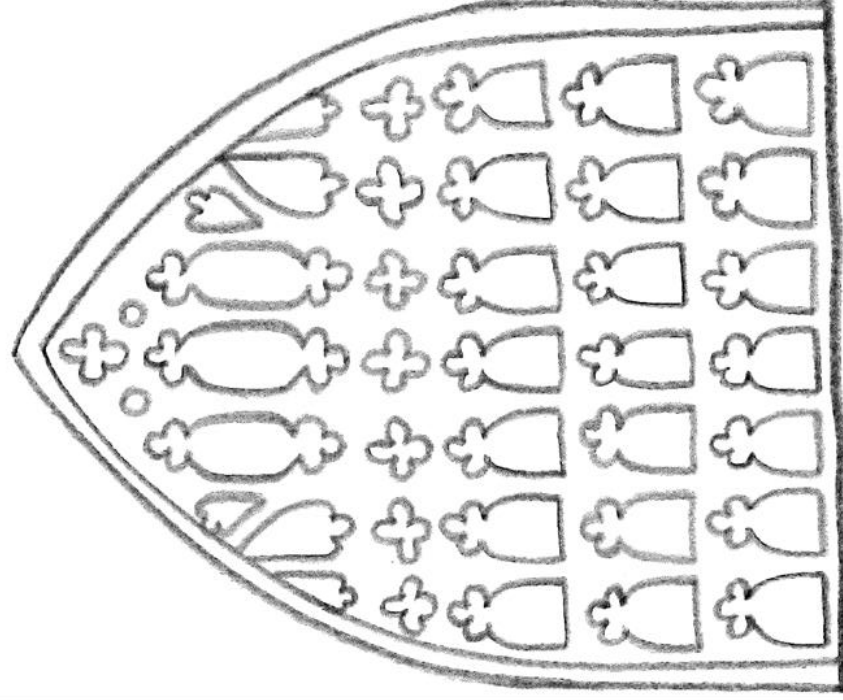
4. Fold forwards and tape to third panel

5. Fold forwards and tape to fourth panel



5. Fold forwards and tape to fourth panel

6. Fold forwards and tape to fifth panel



6. Fold forwards and tape to fifth panel

Fold forwards and tape to previous panel

Fold forwards and tape to previous panel

Fold forwards and tape to previous panel

Fold forwards and tape to previous panel

Have your own coronation

Minimum people needed: 2 Maximum people needed: 8,251

Cast: One monarch
One Archbishop

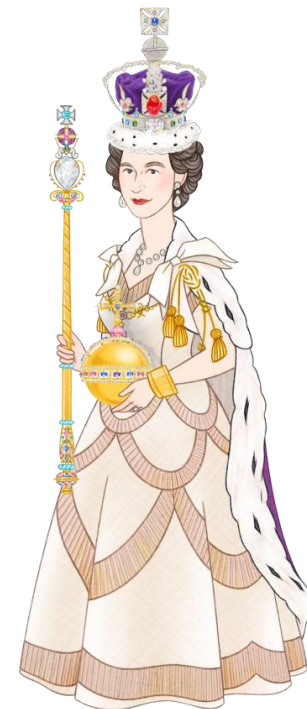
Other Roles might include: Ladies/Lords in waiting
Choir
As many Dukes and Duchesses to watch as possible.

Setting: The longest stretch you can find, this may be a corridor. The fanciest chair you can find at one end.

Props: Your crown
A sceptre - a wooden spoon or similar will do
An orb - a small ball or a rolled up t-shirt
A big spoon

A "cloak" - for the monarch to wear.
A Tall Hat - acting as a bishop's mitre for the Archbishop
Coronets (small crowns) - for the audience, these can be mimed

- The monarch should begin as far from the chair as possible.
- The Archbishop should stand next to the chair.
- Begin playing Zadok the Priest.
- The monarch starts to walk slowly towards the chair.
- The Archbishop helps the monarch sit in the chair.
- The monarch can then be blessed with Holy Oil, from the spoon, on the hands, on the heart and on the head.
- The Archbishop hands the monarch the orb and sceptre.
- When the music gets really exciting and people start to sing (about 1m 20), the Archbishop places the crown on the monarch's head.
- All watching proclaim as loudly as possible: "God save the Queen/King" three times and place the coronets on their heads.
- Repeat as required. We had three kings in 1066 so everyone could have a go!



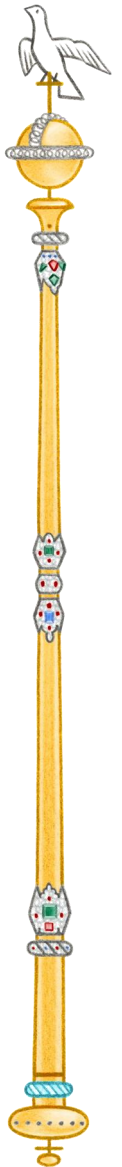


Westminster
Abbey



Congratulations to

on completing Crownation Club!





Westminster
Abbey



Coronation Club

Thank you for joining in with Coronation Club.

Share your makes and experience with Westminster Abbey on social media using [#CoronationClub](#).

You can find the other episodes and activity packs, when available, on our [Coronation Club page](#).

Our website also has lots more about coronations that is targeted at [children and young people](#), as well as [plenty for adults too](#).

Useful Links

Links to find out more from the Abbey:

[The Liber Regalis | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org)

[The Liber Regalis | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org) (Christianity in 10 objects)

[Order of Service | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org)

[Music | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org)

[A history of coronations | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org)

Resources for adults and educators to use at home or in the classroom:

[Coronations image bank | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org) (KS1/2/3)

[Coronations: a two-minute film | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org) (KS1/2/3)

[Coronation ceremony assembly | Westminster Abbey \(westminster-abbey.org\)](https://www.westminster-abbey.org) (KS1/2)

Explore more about the place where royal coaches are kept with the Royal Mews:

[Design a Carriage - activity sheet \(rct.uk\)](https://www.rct.uk)

[Getting ready at the Royal Mews \(rct.uk\)](https://www.rct.uk)

[Video: The Gold State Coach \(rct.uk\)](https://www.rct.uk)

[Training the Horses \(rct.uk\)](https://www.rct.uk)