

The Queen's 95th Birthday Celebrated with Special £5 Coin

There's exciting news this year for coin collectors. A new £5 coin is being **minted** to celebrate The Queen's 95th Birthday.

To mark Queen Elizabeth II becoming the first British monarch to reach the age of 95 in history, the Royal Mint has created a new £5 coin.

The new coin, which was designed by Timothy Noad, has a floral pattern and is inscribed



Illustration: The Queen's commemorative £5 coin.

Monarch. This will be the 69th year that she has been on the throne. Queen Elizabeth II was crowned on the 2nd of June 1953, aged 27. The next longest-reigning monarch was Queen Victoria who reigned for 64 years.

The Queen's coin is not the only new coin

being minted. It is part of a collection of five coins. Amongst the other coins, there will be:

A £2 coin of Walter

Scott who was a famous Scottish novelist. A 50p coin celebrating HG Wells, the science fiction author of books, such as *The War of The Worlds*.

A 50p coin which celebrates the 50th anniversary of the

decimalisation of the currency of Britain. This is when we started using the coins we recognise today instead of coins like **shillings**. Finally, there will be a 50p coin celebrating the inventor John Logie Baird who was important to the invention of early televisions.

What is the Royal Mint?

- The Royal Mint creates all the coins used in Britain. They also create special medals and commemorative coins.
- When it started over a 1000 years ago, the coins were made in the Tower of London. Today, they are made in a factory in Wales.

with the royal **cypher** "EIIR". Underneath, are written the words "my heart and my devotion". This is taken from Queen Elizabeth's Christmas broadcast in 1957. This was the first royal Christmas speech to ever be televised.

In the speech, she said: "In the old days the monarch led his soldiers on the battlefield and his leadership at all times was close and personal."

"Today things are very different. I cannot lead you into battle, I do not give you laws or administer justice, but I can do something else, I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations."

The Queen is the longest-reigning British

Glossary

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|-----------------|---|
| minted | The process of creating a coin. |
| cypher | The initials of a royal. |
| reigning | The time when a royal is on the throne. |
| shilling | A coin used in the past in Britain. |

Retrieval

- 1) Who was the second longest-reigning British monarch?
- 2) Which words are written on the coin ?

Words in context

- 3) In the third paragraph, what is meant by the word 'televised'?

Inference

- 4) Why are people put onto coins ?
- 5) Why do you think the Royal Mint moved to a factory ?