

# Overview of KS2 history lesson\* for HM The King's Coronation

\*This is accompanied with detailed notes for teachers so that it can be adapted depending on whether it is taught to Y3 or Y6.

1  
Images of historical rulers wearing crowns or ceremonial headdresses:

- Cleopatra of ancient Egypt
- Mansa Musa of Mali
- Darius II of ancient Persia
- Queen Salote of Tonga
- Haile Selassie of Ethiopia
- Emperor Xing of China

(Teachers can add images of rulers that pupils have studied providing the ruler is wearing a headdress.)



2  
Brief discussion about rulers that pupils have studied. (The class teacher will know which periods of history and rulers pupils have covered in their curriculum)  
*e.g.* Y3 might have studied Egyptian pharaohs who wore the Nile double crown, Darius II, Alexander of Macedon who wore a diadem.



3  
Photograph of King Charles III visiting a school.  
He became king of the United Kingdom on **8 September 2022**, when The Queen died.  
King Charles does not wear a crown when he visits schools, or hospitals, or communities across the country.  
In fact, King Charles has not worn a crown yet. Image of new £2 coin.



4  
*corona* = Latin for crown  
Introduce the word coronation: the moment when 'the country' places a crown on the king's head. This will be shown on tv.  
Image of King Edward I's coronation showing him holding the orb, sceptre and wearing a crown.



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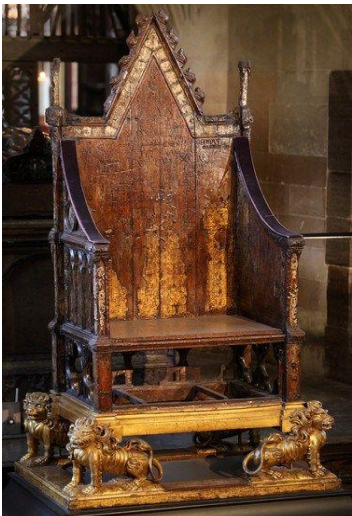
5

**The coronation chair** (without the stone).

Photograph of St Edward's chair with pupils describing with their teacher the shape of the chair, what it is made from, and how high it is.

English kings were crowned in the chair. The teacher will point out the large space beneath the chair.

This is *not* a throne. The king will never sit on this chair again. The next person to sit on this chair will be King Charles's son, William.



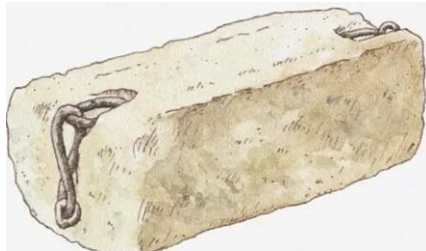
6

**The Stone of Scone.**

Image of the Stone of Scone in Edinburgh Castle.

Explain that Charles III is king of the kingdoms of England and Scotland – the United Kingdom. Scottish kings were crowned on this ancient stone. Discussion about what bringing the chair/stone together means.

Shows pupils the Coronation chair *with* the Stone of Scone. This will symbolise Charles as King of the whole of the United Kingdom.



7

The crown used for crowning the King of the United Kingdom is called St Edward's crown: image.

Video clip of Queen Elizabeth II (58 seconds) examining the crown and describing how heavy it was. Emphasise that this crown was only worn once by Queen Elizabeth.

Weights 5lbs (2 litres of water)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6GVq5R0O1U>



8

When Charles is crowned king on 6 May 2023, there will be symbols used at his Coronation.

(This will help pupils identify, recognise and explain them as they watch the Coronation.)

Let's learn about some of the symbols. For each symbol, pupils can draw a quick sketch for 3-4 mins and then annotate, explaining what it *is* and what it *means*.

The first is the crown, called St Edward's crown. It is the crown we use today to crown British kings and queens. It can only be worn once by a king or a queen.



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9

## The sceptre with the Cross.

Describe this golden stick with jewels. It is a symbol of the king's power to make laws. Laws today as now made by the king but are *signed* by the king after Parliament makes the laws.



10

## The orb.

This is an ancient symbol showing the world with a cross on top. This tells the king that, although he is the king of the UK, there is someone even more powerful than kings: God. (This needs to be handled carefully as some teachers and pupils will not believe in God.)



11

## The Holy Oil on the spoon.

This part you won't see as it is considered very special and sacred. The Archbishop will pour Holy Oil onto the golden spoon and will then anoint the King – making a sign of the cross with it – on his head, his hands, and his chest. This is a symbol that this is the man who is King, no one else. (Church schools might like to discuss the concept of anointing: setting apart someone for a special, holy purpose.)



12

Give pupils a copy of the official Coronation motif to stick into their books: identify the crown of St Edward made up of the four floral symbols (the rose of England, the thistle of Scotland, the daffodil of Wales and the shamrock of Northern Ireland). Pupils will have learned about the four UK nations in KS1. Pupils can write a paragraph to accompany the motif explaining what it means to say that, during the Coronation, Charles III will be crowned king of the United Kingdom. They should try to use core knowledge in their writing including: *coronation, United Kingdom, England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, St Edward's chair, Stone of Scone. St Edward's crown. orb.*



The lesson for pupils begins after this slide.



Let's look and talk.



# King Edward

crown

*corona - tion*

Let's learn a new word and say together:

“A **coronation** is when a king has a crown placed on his head for the first time.”



Let's look and talk.





King Charles has never worn a crown.

This is King Charles III.  
He is the king of the United Kingdom.  
King Charles is visiting some schoolchildren.  
King Charles is waiting for his coronation.





Charles became King of the United Kingdom when the Queen died.  
Charles became King Charles last year on **29 September 2022**.

King Charles is waiting for his **coronation**.

Let's see the Queen at *her coronation* over 70 years ago.

Let's look carefully and recall our new word.





Describe the  
**coronation chair**  
with your partner.



The coronation chair was made hundreds of years ago.



We will see King Charles sit in the **coronation chair** on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023.



Look at the special chair that the Queen sat in at her **coronation**. The chair is called the **coronation chair**, or **King Edward's chair**. 26 kings and queens have sat in the **coronation chair**.

Let's look, think and talk.



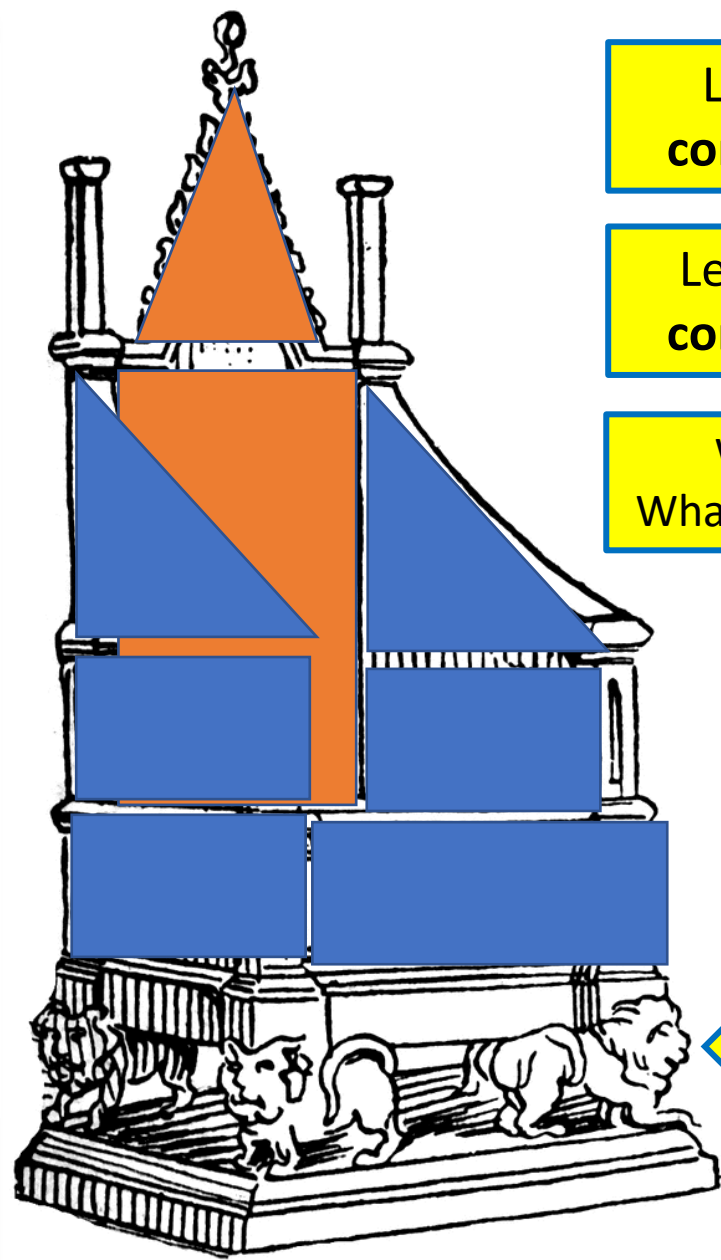
You have divided a page into four boxes.

You will draw and label the **coronation chair** in the first box.



Let's draw and write.





Let's draw the coronation chair.

Let's explain the coronation chair.

Who sits in it?  
What is it made from?



You could draw some lions.

Describe the shape of the **Stone of Scone** with your partner.



We are not sure how old the Stone of Scone is.

Look at this very old piece of stone.  
This stone is called the **Stone of Scone** (*skoon*).  
Kings of Scotland were crowned sitting on the **Stone of Scone**.

Let's look, think and talk.





We will see King Charles sit on the **Stone of Scone** and the **coronation chair** on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

What does this mean?

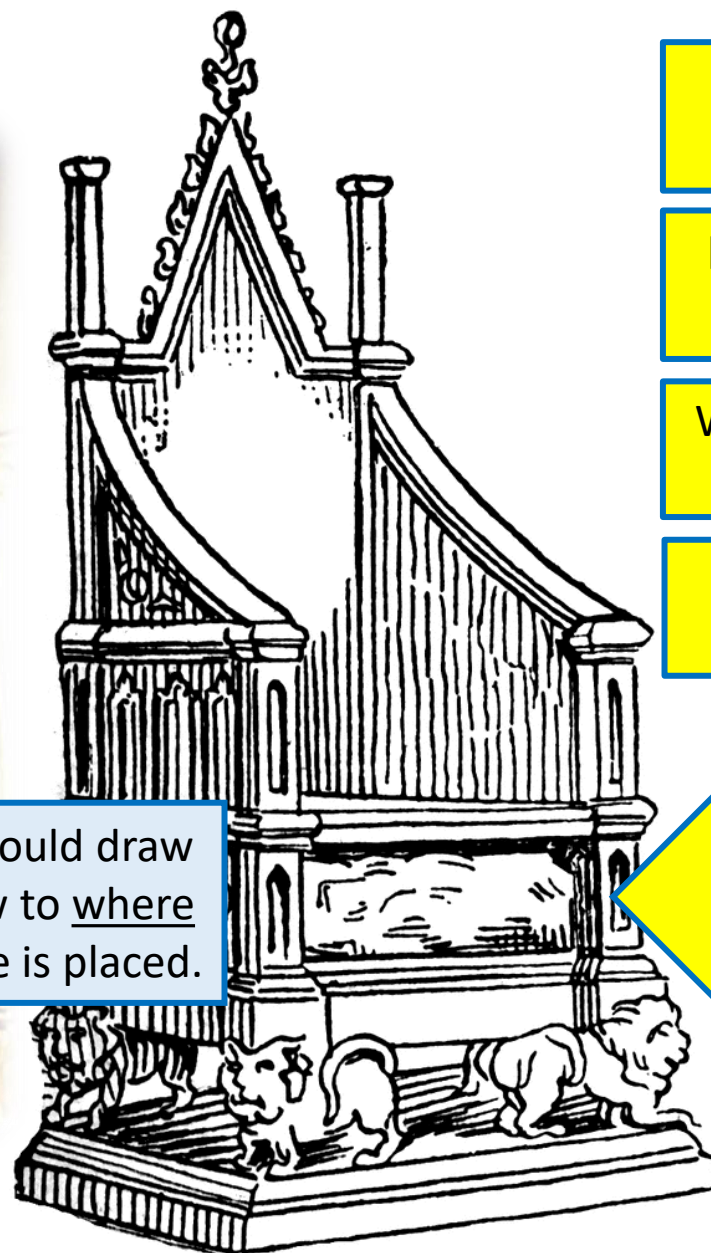
King Charles is King of England and Scotland – the United Kingdom.

We are not sure how old the Stone of Scone is.



Find the **Stone of Scone**. It is sitting as part of the **coronation chair**.





Let's draw the **Stone of Scone**.

Let's explain the **Stone of Scone**.

What country does it come from?

Why is it in the coronation chair?

Or you could draw an arrow to where the stone is placed.

You could add the stone to your coronation chair.

Describe  
**St Edward's crown**  
with your partner.



The crown  
was made  
hundreds of  
years ago in  
1661.



We will see King Charles  
wearing **St Edward's  
crown** on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023.



Look at the crown that the Queen is wearing.  
The crown is called **St Edward's crown**.  
The King will only wear this crown once: at his **coronation**.

Let's look, think and talk.





Listen to the Queen describing St Edward's crown.

Let's watch this clip.





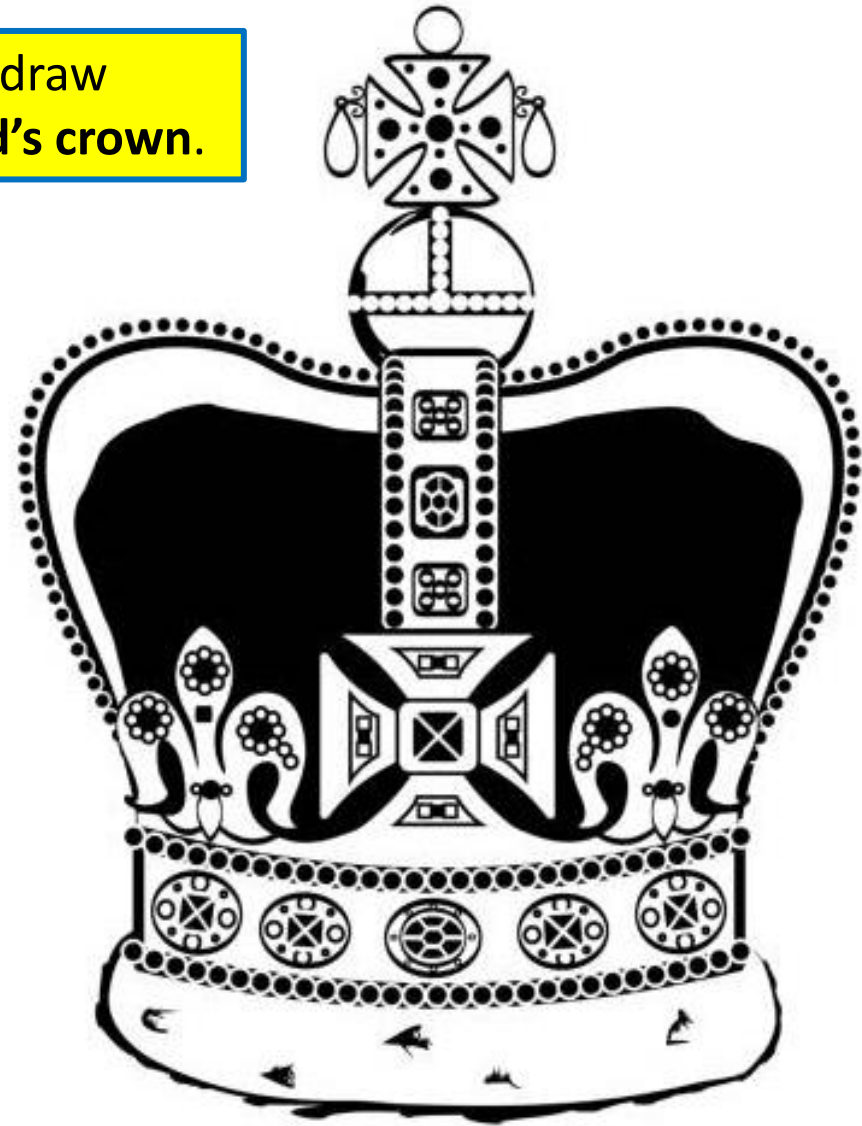


Let's draw  
St Edward's crown.

What is St Edward's  
crown used for?

How often does a king or  
queen wear this crown?

What will the king be  
sitting in when he wears  
this crown?



Let's draw and write.



Describe  
**the sceptre** with  
your partner.



The **sceptre**  
was made  
hundreds of



We will see King Charles holding  
a **sceptre** on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023.



The Queen is holding a **sceptre**.

The golden **sceptre** is a symbol of the power to make laws.

The King today does not make our laws. Parliament makes our laws.

The King signs the laws that Parliament makes.

Let's look, think and talk.



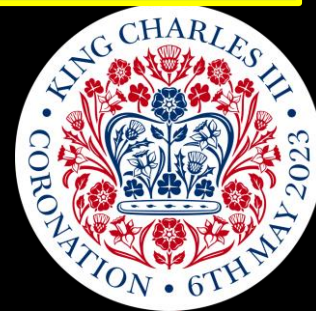
Describe  
**the orb** with your  
partner.



The **orb**  
was made  
hundreds of  
years ago in  
1661.



We will see King Charles holding  
an **orb** on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023.



The King will be given an **orb**.

The **orb** is a symbol that there is someone more powerful than the King...  
*God*. The orb was made when almost everyone in the UK was a Christian.

Let's look, think and talk.

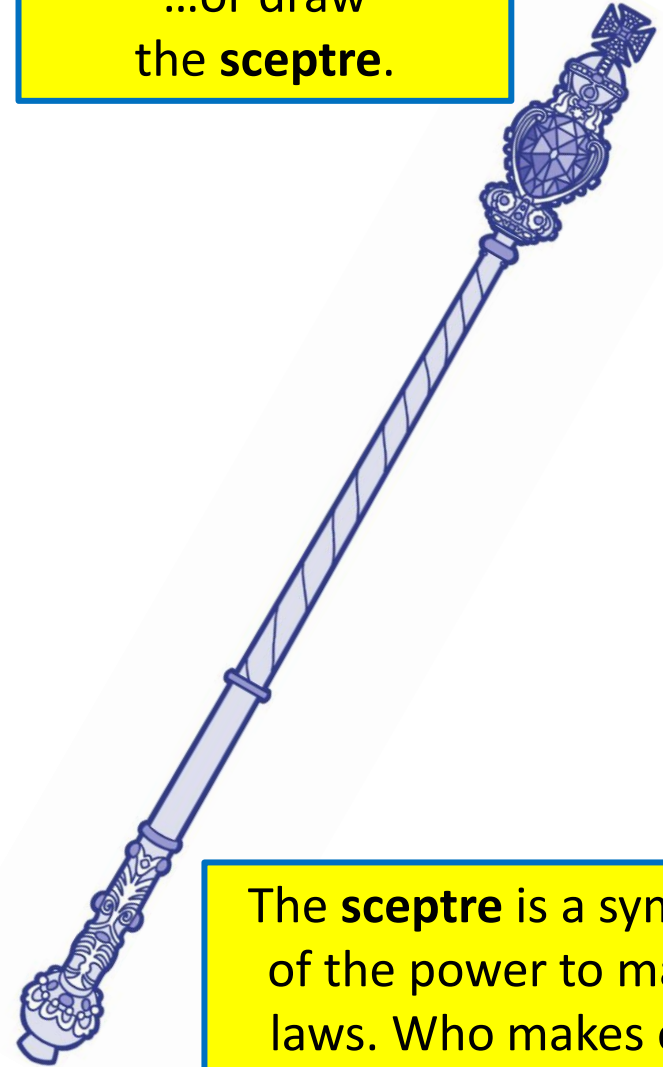


Let's draw  
the **orb**.



The **orb** tells the king  
that there is someone  
even more powerful  
than him: ...?

...or draw  
the **sceptre**.



The **sceptre** is a symbol  
of the power to make  
laws. Who makes our  
laws today?

Let's draw and write.



How many of these objects, that will be used in the King's Coronation, can you name?



St Edward's  
crown

orb

Stone of Scone

coronation chair

sceptre

Let's check we remember.



There is something that we will *not* see during the king's coronation.

It will be hidden from us.

This is because it is the most important part of the coronation.

The King will take off his special robes and open his shirt.

The beak of this golden bird has a hole in it. Oil will be poured onto the golden spoon.

Some oil will be dribbled onto the King's head, chest and hands.

This means the King has a special job for the rest of his life.



Some Christians believe that this is when the King makes promises to God.

Let's look, think and talk.





Can you see anything else that you recognise?

Let's look at another **crown**. It is different from St Edward's crown.  
The King will wear this crown at the end of his **coronation**.  
You can see this crown when the King said goodbye to his mother (The Queen).

Let's look, think and talk.





Let's write in our last box.

Find the word **coronation**.

1. What is a **coronation**?
2. What will we see at the King's Coronation?
3. What won't we see at the Coronation?

Let's draw and write.





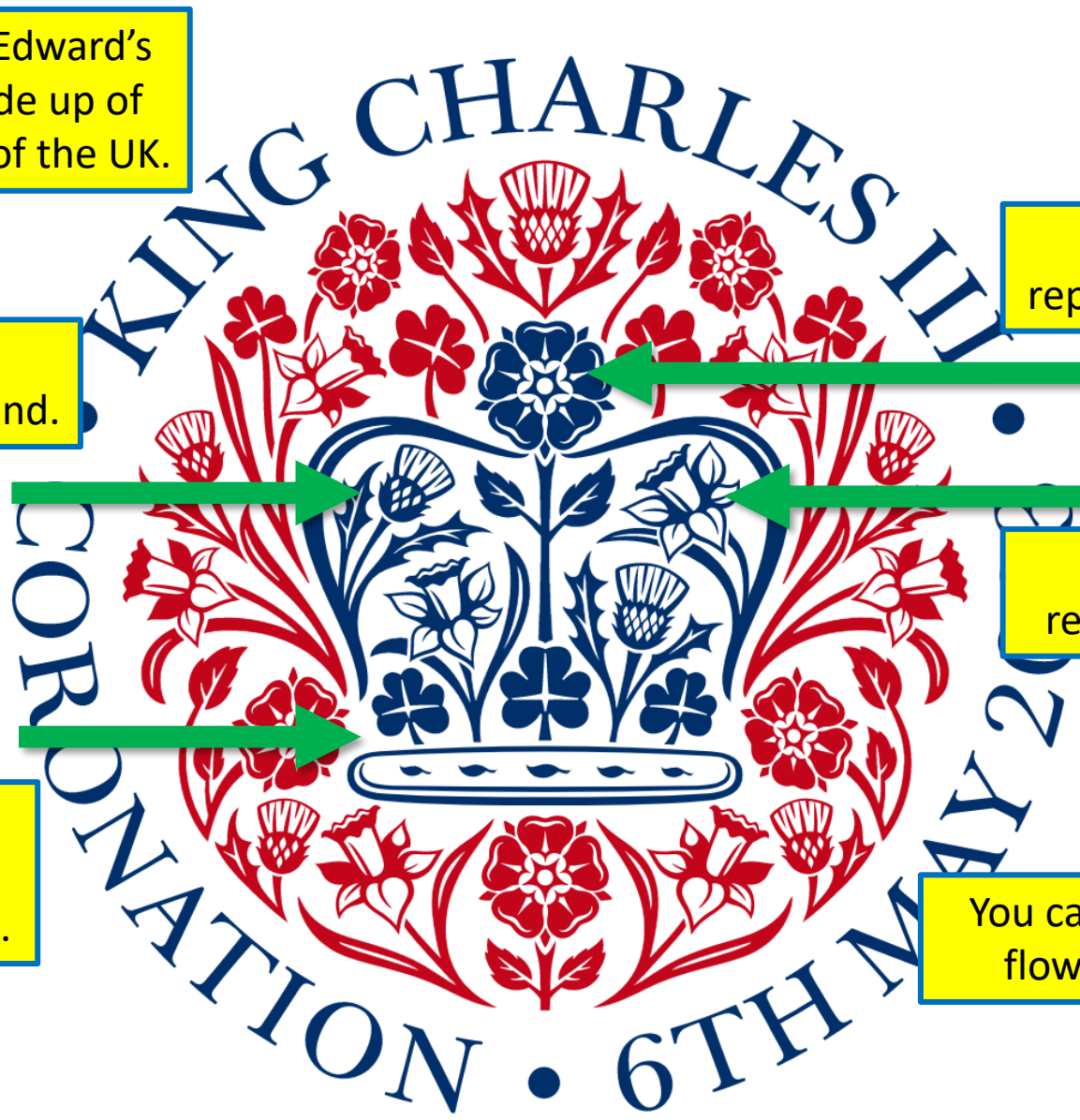
Can you find St Edward's crown? It is made up of the four flowers of the UK.

The thistle represents Scotland.

thistle

shamrock

The shamrock represents Northern Ireland.



The rose represents England.

rose

daffodil

The daffodil represents Wales.

You can label the four flowers of the UK.

You could label the four flowers (and the countries) in your book.

Let's draw and write.



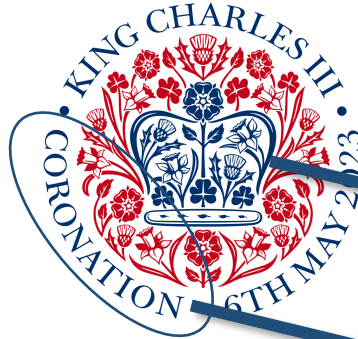
Resources for teachers

Children will divide a whole page into four boxes into which they will draw and write. This limits the space for drawing, focusing children on the writing.

Coronation chair  
and Stone of Scone

St Edward's crown

In the middle of the page, pupils will stick in the Coronation logo with space around it for circling, arrows, annotating and explaining.



the orb *or* sceptre

Pupils will summarise what they have learned about the Coronation in this box.





