

'Becoming Royal' Lesson 3: The Lily Font



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Curriculum focus – History and Literacy- explanation text

Look at and discuss the images with the class using the Teacher's Notes. Explain what a font is used for. Where would you usually see a font? What would it be made of? This one is made from gold – does that make it more exciting? Why? Do they think it is made of solid gold?

Ask the pupils to describe to a partner what they can see on the font. The bowl is made in the form of an enormous flower with a border of water lilies and leaves etc. Lilies were thought to represent purity and water lilies were associated with new life. In pairs again, can they compose some sentences to describe the lily font?

Look at the painting of the christening of Princess Helena. Can you see the lily font? The christening took place in the Chapel Royal in Buckingham Palace. The chapel was designed by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Do you think it still looks like this now? Explain the history of the chapel and how it is now the Queen's Gallery that they can visit.

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Who was the last baby who was christened in the lily font? Pupils could search the LGfL Guardian News Archive (newsarchive.lgfl.net) to find articles about this event (Princess Charlotte was christened in the font in July 2015). Discuss the different styles in the way each of the newspapers have presented the event.

Writing Activity

Write a detailed description of a Royal Christening in which the Lily Font is used. Pupils can search the Royal Collection Trust website (royalcollection.org.uk) for images of past Christenings, such as the Chapel Royal at St. James' Palace or the Music Room inside Buckingham Palace. They may want to include the following words when describing the font:

Silver-gilt, shiny, water-lilies, purity, cherubs, lyres, leaves, curling, precious, symbolic, bowl, flower shaped, bedecked, unique, special,