

WARM UP

1 How much do you know about the British Royal Family? Tick (✓) the sentences you think are true and correct the false ones.

- 1 The name of the Queen is Anne.
- 2 The Queen has 4 children.
- 3 The Queen has reigned for over 60 years.
- 4 Prince Philip is the Queen's brother.
- 5 Princess Diana died in a plane crash.
- 6 Prince William married Kate in 2010.

A famous renovation: Kensington Palace



GLOSSARY

renovation: *ristrutturazione*
late: *defunta*
display: *mostra*
outfits: *abiti*
shake up: *scuotere*
has witnessed: *è stato testimone*
lawns: *prati*

MORE ABOUT...

Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, married Catherine Middleton at Westminster Abbey in 2011. There were about 1,900 wedding guests and the day was a public holiday in the UK. After the ceremony, the couple travelled to Buckingham Palace for the traditional appearance on the balcony. The cost of the wedding was £20 million. 650 people took part in the celebrations at the Palace and 300 were invited to the evening reception at Buckingham Palace, where a nightclub was set up for this special occasion.

London's Kensington Palace finally opened its doors again in March 2012 after being closed for two years for renovation. It cost £12 million to transform the former residence of Queen Victoria and then of Diana, Princess of Wales, into a new home for Prince William and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge. A part of it has also been made into a museum dedicated to the late Princess Diana with a display of many of her famous outfits, while there is also an exhibition which traces the life of Queen Victoria and even includes the shoes she wore as a baby.

Kensington Palace is an attractive red-brick building in Kensington Gardens, a public park in the centre of London, and is much

more welcoming than the austere-looking grey Buckingham Palace, Queen Elisabeth II's residence, also to be found in London. The renovated building is hoped to shake up people's idea of a royal palace, offering both the grandeur of the big, golden rooms that people expect and a mix of more personal revealing items, now lovingly kept in this building which has witnessed both affairs of state and of the heart. The building has been made much more accessible to the tourist and there are dozens of rooms open to the public. Visitors can now enter the building from the park, where they will find a lovely ornamental garden surrounded by perfect lawns surprisingly without the usual 'keep off the grass' signs.



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READING COMPREHENSION

2 Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1 Which deceased members of the Royal Family who lived in Kensington Palace are mentioned in the text?
- 2 Apart from remaining a Royal Residence, what has Kensington Palace been turned into?
- 3 In what way is Kensington Palace different from Buckingham Palace?
- 4 What will tourists find different about Kensington Palace compared to other Royal Palaces?

VOCABULARY

3 Complete the following sentences about Kensington Palace with a word from the box.

creating • dying • helping • belonging • including • marrying

- 1 On the ground floor of Kensington Palace there is a display of dresses _____ to Princess Diana.
- 2 Diana lived in Kensington Palace for 16 years after _____ Prince Charles in 1981.
- 3 After _____ in an accident in Paris in 1997, thousands of people came and left flowers outside the palace gates.
- 4 Diana's elegant dresses reveal her evolving style and the important role fashion played in _____ her public image.
- 5 Upstairs in Kensington Palace there is an exhibition devoted to Queen Victoria, _____ the room where she was born.
- 6 There is a pair of royal stockings and Victoria's delighted description of her husband Prince Albert _____ her to put them on.



WRITING

4 Write about a famous palace in your area giving some historical details and describing what it is used for now.