



1936: Edward VIII abdicated the British throne to marry his lover Wallis Simpson (UK)



## Scandals in the Royal Family

The British Royal Family is always making headlines for good or bad reasons. The House of Windsor has experienced many scandals for the past few generations. In December 1936, Edward VIII, the newly crowned king of the United Kingdom, The Dominions of the British Empire and Emperor of India, abdicated to marry Wallis Simpson. His intention to marry a twice divorced American commoner was against civil and religious law and caused a constitutional crisis. He chose to resign. He addressed the nation his decision to abdicate in a worldwide radio broadcast explaining he was choosing love over power. "I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as king as I would wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love." He was then succeeded by his brother, George VI. This resignation changed the course of the British monarchy. The gossip magazines never stopped tracking the Royals to deliver the "dirty laundry" and publish all the different scandals all across the world to capture the world's attention of this infamous couple.

### Teaching ideas

☆☆☆ **CYCLE 3 ET 4** - Have students create a Royal Family tree from Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip finishing in 2022. Ask them to add pictures, names and then let them play in pairs a guessing game on the Royal Family members.

☆☆☆ **LYCÉE** - Have students visit the website: <https://www.royal.uk/> and check what the Royals duties are. Are they surprised? After brainstorming the Royal Family, ask them to work in pairs to make a list of things members of the Royal Family are allowed, and not allowed to do. They can compare lists and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of being a member of a royal family.