

Lesson Plan: Prince

Summary

In this episode, Blade explored the long history of princes and monarchies while sketching a toy prince. He discussed Japan's continuous hereditary monarchy dating back to 660 BCE, the Egyptian princes of 3100 BCE, and the young rulers Ivan VI and Edward III. He compared how Prince Albert and Prince Philip both married reigning queens but could not be kings, and explained that Charles and William follow the same lineage of waiting for their turn. The session wrapped with reflections on patience, history, and daily creative discipline.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/zhSO6fndcQ?si=wMJbMrVXb-Iovosq>

Objective

Students will analyze the historical and cultural roles of princes in hereditary monarchies, compare succession laws across cultures, and discuss how leadership and patience intersect in both royal history and personal development.

Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2: Determine the central ideas of a primary or secondary source and summarize them.
- C3.D2.His.2.6-8: Classify and analyze patterns of continuity and change in historical eras.
- NGSS.MS-LS4-5: Gather and synthesize information about the influence of hereditary traits in the continuation of a population or family line.

Materials

- 9 Fun Facts: Prince
- Worksheet
- Optional: whiteboard or notebook paper for notes
- Optional: projector or digital display for monarchy maps or family trees

Introduction

Begin by asking students what they know about kings, queens, and princes. Discuss the difference between hereditary and elected leadership. Invite students to share examples of royal families they've heard about.

Activity

Students will read the 9 Fun Facts, highlighting how succession laws and traditions have evolved. In small groups, they will trace the path from ancient Egypt to modern Britain, noting how gender, nationality, and inheritance shaped power. Each group will identify one example of a prince who never became king and explain why.

Assessment

Students will complete the worksheet and participate in a short group discussion connecting the idea of royal patience to personal growth and responsibility.

Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)
Content Understanding	Accurately explains historical succession and examples from all Fun Facts	Explains most succession examples correctly	Understands basic ideas with minor errors	Shows limited understanding of monarchies
Discussion Participation	Actively contributes thoughtful insights	Participates regularly with some relevant comments	Speaks rarely or off-topic	No participation
Worksheet Completion	All answers complete and correct	Minor errors or one incomplete answer	Several incomplete answers	Largely incomplete
Technology Connections	Uses online or digital tools effectively to extend research	Uses tools with minimal assistance	Limited digital application	No use of digital tools

9 Fun Facts: Prince

1. The first known hereditary monarchy with princes Japan holds the record as the world's oldest continuous hereditary monarchy, tracing its imperial line back to Emperor Jimmu in 660 BCE. Every Japanese emperor since has claimed descent from this founding line, making the Chrysanthemum Throne the longest unbroken succession in history. Ancient Egypt, much earlier at around 3100 BCE, shows the earliest evidence of hereditary princes, where royal heirs were called sa nesu ("son of the king"). Both Egypt's titles and Japan's continuity define the roots of monarchy as we understand it today.

<https://www.genealogysearchlinks.com/what-is-the-oldest-royal-family-in-the-world>

2. The youngest prince to assume a throne Ivan VI of Russia became emperor when he was barely two months old in 1740. He never ruled independently and was soon overthrown by Empress Elizabeth. England's Henry VI was also an infant monarch, ascending at about nine months old. Both boys were technically kings but had regents wielding power in their names.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/youngest-monarchs-in-history-2017-2>

3. The most successful prince to become a monarch Edward III of England, crowned at fourteen, transformed England into a powerful medieval state. He revived military prestige through victories in the early Hundred Years' War and strengthened Parliament's role in governance. His reign became a model of medieval kingship and expansion.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Edward-III-king-of-England>

4. Why Prince Albert couldn't be king Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, husband of Queen Victoria, was born a German prince and owed allegiance to another sovereign house. British law forbade foreign princes from claiming the throne, and tradition held that a queen's husband could not outrank her. Making him "King Albert" would have implied rule over the sovereign herself. Instead, Parliament granted him the title Prince Consort in 1857, recognizing his role without conferring power.

<https://www.royal.uk/prince-albert>

5. Why Prince Philip couldn't be king A century later, the same rules applied to Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark. Before marrying Elizabeth II, he renounced his foreign titles and became a British subject, yet constitutional law barred him from becoming "King." The title King Consort would have placed him above the reigning queen, so he remained the Duke of Edinburgh until Elizabeth made him "Prince of the United Kingdom" in 1957.

<https://www.royal.uk/early-life-and-education>

6. Why it took so long for Prince Charles to become king There was no delay beyond longevity. Queen Elizabeth II reigned for seventy years, the longest in British history. Charles automatically became king the moment she died in 2022, having served as Prince of Wales since 1958. Like his great-great-grandfather Edward VII before him, he simply had to wait his turn.

<https://www.royal.uk/the-king>

7. The next prince in line for the British throne Prince William, the Prince of Wales, is next. His son, Prince George, follows him, then Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis. Succession is now determined by absolute primogeniture, meaning the eldest child inherits regardless of gender.

<https://www.royal.uk/succession>

8. Estimated net worth of the next king Prince William's personal wealth is estimated between \$30 million and \$100 million today. Upon accession, he would control the Duchy of Lancaster and the Crown Estate, whose combined assets total billions, though most are held in trust for the nation. His personal net worth could rise toward \$1 billion within five years of coronation.

<https://www.investopedia.com/ahead-of-king-charles-coronation-here-is-the-british-royal-family-s-net-worth-7486580>

9. The number of monarchies that still have princes Roughly forty-five sovereign monarchies remain worldwide, and nearly all recognize heirs with titles like Crown Prince, Prince of Wales, or local equivalents. Modern examples include the United Kingdom, Japan, Spain, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. From sa nesu to princeps, the idea of a royal successor has endured for over five millennia.

<https://medium.com/lessons-from-history/8-oldest-monarchies-in-the-world-that-still-exist-3e2b952fd618>

Worksheet

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Review

1. What two ancient civilizations show the earliest evidence of hereditary princes?
2. Who was the youngest prince to ever assume a throne, and how old was he?
3. Which monarch became king at fourteen and strengthened England during the Hundred Years' War?

Discussion

4. Why were both Prince Albert and Prince Philip unable to become kings?
5. How did the law change in 2011 to determine the order of succession?

Data Analysis

6. Estimate the financial difference between Prince William's current net worth and his projected worth as king.

Reflection

7. What personal qualities do you think help a person wait patiently for leadership, whether royal or ordinary?
8. What can students learn from the persistence of monarchy traditions in modern times?