



Living Paintings

Coronation: The Sensory Experience for Blind Children

Guidance Notes for parents and teachers

Welcome to these very special tactile pictures and audio guides celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty The Queen, on Saturday 6th May 2023 at Westminster Abbey in London.

We have provided two tactile pictures with corresponding audio guides for three age groups: *Preschool*, *Primary* and *Secondary children and young people*. Each audio description guides the fingers over the tactile picture and provides information. These are presented as atmospheric spoken word descriptions with sound effects and music.

Topics

The St Edward's Crown and the Coronation Ceremony

This tactile picture shows the magnificent St Edward's Crown that is used in the 'crowning' of King Charles III. The Saint Edward's Crown was made for the Coronation of King Charles II on the 23rd April 1661, and was designed and created by the jeweller Robert Vyner. It is part of 'The Crown Jewels' and is on display at the Tower of London.

The first part of this audio description guides the fingers over the main parts of the crown, exploring the details and the history. The latter-half of the track is dedicated to describing what a coronation is, and what happens during the ceremony at Westminster Abbey.

King Charles III Royal Mail Stamp and the National Flowers of the UK

This tactile picture includes a portrait of King Charles III, as shown on the Royal Mail stamps and all new Royal Mint coins. The King's image is based on a carved sculpture by the artist Martin Jennings. Down the left hand side of the tactile picture

are the national flowers of the UK – the Thistle, Shamrock, Daffodil and Tudor Rose. These flowers are part of the official Coronation emblem, designed by Sir Jony Ive.

This first part of this audio description talks about King Charles III as a person and what he enjoys doing, and then it guides the fingers over and describes his portrait on the Royal Mail stamp. The latter-half of this track is dedicated to exploring the national flowers of the UK, exploring symbolism and their stories.

How to get started

Hopefully, the young person you are working with will be familiar with our touch and sound adaptations. They may have used other books and resources from our library, in particular the Introductory packs which are specifically designed to introduce and guide blind children in using our system of tactile and audio description. If not, the following may be helpful to you:

- This resource includes 2 tactile pictures, with corresponding short audio guides on our website to stream. Go to livingpaintings.org/coronation to listen to the audio guides.
- Make sure the raised image is on a flat surface for touching.
- Each tactile picture stands-alone, so you can use them in the order you would like to, one after the other or at different times.
- You may like to cast an eye over the typed scripts before working with them.
- The audio guides are not long however, concentration is required – perhaps check the track timings before starting.
- Encourage the listener to stop/pause and start the audio as they wish. There is music and atmospheric sound effects on each soundtrack, which act as opportunities to pause if you would like to.
- Encourage your child to interact with the narrator and reply to any questions the narrator on the audio may ask. This may lead to an informative and fun discussion for you and your child.

- Colour forms an important part of our audio description. The tactile images are painted and there are colour photographs of the objects on our coronation website page for you to refer to. With your child, talk about colour and its variations e.g. the sky can be bright blue or pale blue at different times of a sunny day or it could be a dull, cold grey on a winter's rainy day etc. If your child has some sight, perhaps encourage them to discuss the colours used on the tactile picture.
- Talk about related sensory elements including smells, tastes and sounds. When describing the coronation ceremony we talk about the fragrant oil used for anointing the King. You may like to share some of these scents with your child e.g. olive oil, orange and cinnamon. The soundtracks contain some of the music and sounds heard during the coronation including 'God Save King' and the 'Fanfare Royal' trumpets.
- Always work with the audio and tactile pictures at a pace that suits your child/young person. It is important that they enjoy the tactile and audio experience and do not feel under pressure or become frustrated. Each child/young person has different experiences in using and interpreting audio-tactile material, and some may require more guidance than others.

Complementary activity ideas

We feel sure that you will know how to introduce the subject matter of this resource into lessons, or as a fun activity at home. The following are a few complementary ideas:

- **Use models and toys** - perhaps you have a dressing up outfit that includes a robe and crown, or perhaps craft a crown with your child. Make a special coronation chair out of cushions and blankets.
- **Baking Coronation Crown biscuits** – use the tried and tested recipe on our website to make, bake and decorate a batch of crown biscuits.

- **Growing seeds** – inspired by King Charles’s love of nature, sow and grow seeds with your child. Using potting compost and a packet of seeds – wildflowers or sunflowers - plant in an old yoghurt pot, plant pot or trough, or your garden. Water regularly and enjoy as they grow.
- **Craft activities** include making a crown using card, glue and pompoms, buttons, jewels and textured card; make and hang bunting – use red, white and blue card or material such as felt.

Credits and thanks

St Edward’s Crown: Royal Collection Trust / © His Majesty King Charles III 2023

Royal Mail Stamp: All intellectual property rights in King Charles III’s portrait image which is featured on Royal Mail’s definitive stamps and labels, and on other products which feature that image, are the property of The Royal Mint Limited, used by Royal Mail under licence. The design of the definitive stamp is © Royal Mail Group Limited 2023.

Coronation emblem flowers of the UK: with thanks to The Lord Chamberlain’s Office, Sir Jony Ive and LoveFrom.

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Our contact details

Living Paintings
Queen Isabelle House
Unit 8, Kingsclere Park
Kingsclere
Newbury

**Berkshire
RG20 4SW**

Telephone: 01635 299771

Email: library@livingpaintings.org

Website: www.livingpaintings.org