



Trooping The Colour

Trooping the Colour is an annual celebration. It is held on the Queen's official birthday. This is on a different date to her personal birthday. Queen Elizabeth's official birthday is in June. The tradition began in the 1600s. King Charles II wanted his troops to know the colour of their own regiment. Each regiment would parade in its official colours so that soldiers could recognise them. It has been used as a celebration since 1748.

Queen Elizabeth II always takes part in the parade. She used to ride on a horse. She would always ride side-saddle. She wore the uniform of the regiment whose Colour was being celebrated. The regiment that is being trooped changes each year. She has attended in a carriage since 1987. The carriage is pulled by two horses.

INFERENCE FOCUS

1. Why do you think it was important that soldiers knew which colour their regiment wore?
2. Why do you think The Queen stopped riding on a horse and began using a carriage?
3. Why does the parade start at Buckingham Palace?
4. Do you think it is important that the same music is played every year? Why?



Over 1000 soldiers take part in the parade. They are joined by two-hundred horses and over two-hundred musicians. The musicians form six different bands.

The route for the parade begins at Buckingham Palace. It travels along The Mall to the Horse Guards Parade. It then

heads back along the same route.

The parade begins at precisely 11 o'clock. The clock on the Horse Guards Building is used to tell the time. The Royal Procession arrives just as the clock strikes eleven. She then drives slowly past the ranks of the guards. This is called the Inspection.

The main part of the ceremony is the actual Trooping of the Colour. Trooping means marching. The Colour is the name for the regiment being honoured. There are lots of different stages in the process. There is lots of music from the bands. It is very organised. The same music is played each year. There are lots of traditions with Trooping the Colour.

The Royal Family gather on the balcony of Buckingham Palace once the parade is over. They watch an RAF display from there.



VIPERS QUESTIONS

R

Who began the tradition of Trooping the Colours?

V

Find a word that means "visited or went to".

R

How many horses take part in the parade?

S

What happens after the clock strikes eleven?

E

Which piece of information did you find most interesting? Explain why.

Answers:

1. So that they knew who to head for in battle
2. As she got older it became harder and more dangerous
3. It is the official residence of the Royal Family
4. It is important because the traditions have been in place for hundreds of years

R: King Charles II

V: Attended

R: 200

S: The Queen arrives and drives past the guards

E: Higher level explanations will discuss the impact of vocabulary or lots of information that interests them.