

Buckingham

PALACE



Buckingham Palace is where the Queen lives when she is in London. You can always tell if the Queen is at home, because the Royal Standard will fly above the building. When the Queen is away the Union Jack flies above the Palace.



A Royal Home

The Queen lives in an apartment at Buckingham Palace, but the Palace has over 400 rooms as well as a swimming pool, tennis and squash courts. There is also a large garden with a lake in the middle. Around 550 staff work in the Palace, to help The Queen in her job as Head of State, and to keep the Palace and the works of art clean and in good condition.

From a House to a Palace

When Buckingham Palace was originally built in 1677, it was known as Buckingham House, because it was the home of the Duke of Buckingham. King George III bought it as a family home in 1762 for his wife, Queen Charlotte. Over the next sixty years, the house was enlarged and remodelled. King George's son, George IV, moved many works of art into the palace and changed the interior decoration.

A Family Home

The first monarch to live in Buckingham Palace was Queen Victoria. She lived there with her husband and children. Queen Victoria felt that the building was too small for her large family (she had eight children), so she added a whole new front section closing the other three sides.

In 1913 the front was given a new stone

face which explains why it is a different colour to the other three sides of the building.

Since Queen Victoria, all the kings and queens have been based at the Palace.

