



Philosophy
Circles

This is your Queen speaking

Her Majesty is stepping down. Who should replace her?



Play the Thinkers' Game '**Dividing Line**' (p. 11). Stick two parallel lines of masking tape on the floor, around 2 metres apart. In your most monarchical voice, announce you will no longer be the teacher, for you have been invited to become King/Queen. You intend to make rules and laws for the country.

As Queen, I'm going to make a law that says you must spend another 3 hours each day in school, learning about me! Stand on this side of the lines if you think that's a good idea, or that side if you think it's a bad idea.

Notice that there is a space in the middle, between the two lines, for those who are unsure or torn. Invite pupils to give their reasons for why they have chosen their side. Repeat with a couple more fun laws - like for *one day a year, the teachers must become pupils and the pupils become teachers, or under me, school uniforms will be abolished*



Back as teacher, play the accompanying sound file '**This is your Queen speaking.**' Let pupils discuss their responses in pairs/threes. Hear some points of view on how a new monarch should be chosen. *Family succession? Election?* It's a good idea to set out the monarch's job description first - whether this be a law-maker, or as ceremonial figure.



This enquiry can go in many directions, for example: the fairness of family succession, or what qualities a monarch should have. One at a time, ask for pupils to nominate themselves, and invite them in turn to sit on a throne (your teachers chair) and take questions from the group. Afterward, ask pupils for who they think, would make the best monarch, and why.

NEXT STEPS
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Can they find out what the difference is between the powers of today's monarch, and those of her predecessors? This could be an eye-opening research task if the monarch in your enquiry had absolute power.

Alternatively, set a homework on what would they do if they were monarch for a day? Compare their priorities in the next lesson.