***Приложение 2***

**Slide 1**

Hello, everybody! My name is Rita Prodayvoda and I am a pupil of the seventh form.

Today we are talking about Great Britain. And just like there is no Britain without the Queen, there is no Queen without a palace. So, I am going to tell you some facts about the Royal Residences – or the places where Queen Elizabeth lives and works.

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Today all Royal residences can be divided into four categories. They are:

* Unoccupied Royal residences
* Official Royal residences
* Private Estates
* Royal Yacht Britannia

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Unoccupied Royal residencesare all buildings in Great Britain where members of the Royal Family once lived. Now they are all owned by The Queen “in right of Crown”. This means that Her Majesty owns them but cannot sell them.

Many of them are open to the general public and serve as museums.

Here on the picture you can see the Palace of Westminster built as a royal residence for King Edward in the 11th century which now serves as Houses of Parliament

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Another unoccupied Royal residence is the Tower of London. It was built to the order of William the Conqueror in 1078 and since then it has been used as a fortress, a prison and as a royal palace. Now it is a museum.

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Kensington is also of great historical importance, as it was the birthplace and childhood home of Queen Victoria.

Today in Kensington Palace there are offices and private apartments of some members of the Royal Family

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**The Official Royal Residences**

These are used first of all as family homes for members of the Royal Family. Some

of them serve as working buildings and places where the Queen meets official guests and holds formal ceremonies.

The best-known of these residences is probably

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**…Buckingham Palace**

…which has served as the official London residence of British monarchs since 1837 and today is also the office of Queen Elisabeth the Second

Buckingham Palace is very big. It has 775 rooms.

Among them - 52 Royal and guest bedrooms,

188 bedrooms where people who work in the Palace live,

92 offices and (just imagine!) 78 bathrooms.

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All rooms in the palace are beautifully decorated. Here you can see The Blue Drawing Room

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And that is The State Dining Room

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**Windsor Castle** is another official residence of The Queen and the largest occupied castle in the world.

It has been a Royal home and fortress for 900 years. Now every year the Queen

spends a month over Easter (in March-April) in Windsor Castle and also stays here for a week in June.

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On this slide you can see The Grand Reception Room

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And here is The Bedchamber of the King or simply King’s bedroom

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**Private Estates**

There are several private estates that are owned by The Queen and are used as holiday residences of the royal family.

Among them are Balmoral Castle and Sandringham House.

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Sandringham House is situated in Norfolk

It has been the private home of four generations of monarchs since 1862.

The Queen and other members of the Royal Family regularly spend Christmas at Sandringham and stay there until February each year.

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As you now understand the Royal family in Great Britain has a lot of residences. But only few of them are in Scotland.

The main Scottish private residence is located in Aberdeenshire and is called the **Balmoral Castle.**

Balmoral Castle has been the Scottish home of the Royal Family since Prince Albert bought it for Queen Victoria in 1852.

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Now the Balmoral Estate covers the territory of about 20,000 hectares. Most of it is used for forestry and farming.

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Part of the estate where trees were planted is now home for 1,600 red deer.

Also, more than 20 Shetland ponies are kept on the estate.

Besides, The Queen founded the Balmoral fold of Highland Cattle and it now has 29 cows.

The estate also offers grouse moors hunting and salmon fishing.

The duke of Edinburgh – the husband of Queen Elizabeth - takes care of his favorite flower and vegetable gardens.

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The estate also includes other buildings, one of which is Birkhall.

It is the private residence of the Prince of Wales. He received it from the Queen Mum after she died.

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Now Balmoral is the favourite residence for The Queen and her family during the summer holiday period in August and September.

During their summer stay, the royals preoccupy themselves with walks through the hills, picnics, mushroom picking, hunting and fishing, horseback riding and home-cinema evenings.

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**Royal Yacht Britannia**

*Every monarch is responsible for building a church, a castle, a palace or just a house.*

*The only residence that was built during the reign of Queen Elizabeth was the Royal Yacht Britannia.*

She is one of the world's most famous ships. – you see, I’ve just said “she” not “it” because the British always talk about their ships as if they were ladies.

So, she was launched in 1953 by Queen Elizabeth the Second and served the Queen and the country for 44 years. It carried the Queen on 968 official voyages.

In 1997 Britannia was decommissioned and Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, was chosen as Britannia’s new home.

**So, that is the end of my short story about the Royal residences.**

**Thank you very much for your attention.**

**If you have any questions I am ready to answer them.**

Royal Coat of Arms (королевский герб)