

## Thailand has a new king

3rd December, 2016



Photo - Public Domain  
(via kritiya\_sinchaikul on pikabay.com)

Thailand has a new king after Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, 64, accepted an invitation from parliament to succeed his father. His succession comes 50 days after the widely loved and revered

King Bhumibol died in October, aged 88. Prince Vajiralongkorn will be known as King Maha Vajiralongkorn. He will also be known as Rama X, or the 10th king of Thailand's Chakri dynasty. He addressed his people in a televised statement on Thursday. He said: "I would like to accept the invitation for the benefit of the Thai people." Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said: "May all the Thai people unite to pray that...he may long reign as an idol and guardian of the Thai people."

The coronation of the new king will not take place until after King Bhumibol's cremation early next year. The new king was born on July 28, 1952. He went to schools in Australia and the UK before doing his military training in Australia. King Maha Vajiralongkorn is widely travelled and has a home in Germany. Over the past few years, he has undertaken more of his father's ceremonial duties in Thailand when the late king was ill and needed medical treatment. He also organized and participated in high-profile events such as cycle rides around the Thai capital Bangkok. One of his first acts as monarch will be to endorse Thailand's new constitution that has been backed by the Thai people.

Sources: *reuters.com* / *StraitsTimes.com* / *BangkokPost.com*

## Writing

A monarch is a better head of state than a president. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

king / invitation / parliament / dynasty / televised / statement / unite / pray / idol / coronation / military training / widely travelled / duties / medical treatment / capital

## True / False

- Thailand's new king is in his sixties. T / F
- The new king will become the tenth king of Thailand's Chakri dynasty. T / F
- The new king made a statement to his people via television. T / F
- Thailand's Prime Minister has yet to make a comment on the new king. T / F
- King Maha Vajiralongkorn's coronation will be at the end of December. T / F
- King Maha Vajiralongkorn did his military training in the UK. T / F
- King Maha Vajiralongkorn has a home in Germany. T / F
- King Maha Vajiralongkorn's first act as king will be a cycle ride. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>invitation</b> | a. managed          |
| 2. <b>succeed</b>    | b. good             |
| 3. <b>addressed</b>  | c. crowning         |
| 4. <b>benefit</b>    | d. follow           |
| 5. <b>unite</b>      | e. happen           |
| 6. <b>coronation</b> | f. request          |
| 7. <b>take place</b> | g. supported        |
| 8. <b>undertaken</b> | h. responsibilities |
| 9. <b>duties</b>     | i. spoke to         |
| 10. <b>backed</b>    | j. join             |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about the Thai monarchy?
- What do you think it's like to be a king?
- What role should kings play in society?
- What do you know about the late Thai King Bhumibol?
- Should all countries have a royal family?
- What are the pros and cons of a royal family?
- Is a monarch a better head of state than a president?
- What do you know about King Maha Vajiralongkorn?

## Phrase Match

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. accepted            | a. training           |
| 2. widely loved and    | b. the new king       |
| 3. in a televised      | c. to pray            |
| 4. for the benefit     | d. revered            |
| 5. people unite        | e. duties             |
| 6. The coronation of   | f. statement          |
| 7. military            | g. of the Thai people |
| 8. widely              | h. new constitution   |
| 9. ceremonial          | i. travelled          |
| 10. endorse Thailand's | j. an invitation      |

## Discussion – Student B

- Do you like the royal families of other countries?
- Why do so many princes do military training?
- What do you think a king does every day?
- What stresses do you think a king might have?
- What would you do if you were a monarch?
- What advice would you have for a new king?
- What do you know about the constitution of your country?
- What questions would you like to ask an expert on the Thai monarchy?

## Spelling

- dscueec his father
- the widely loved and reedver King Bhumibol
- Thailand's Chakri daytyns
- accept the otiiannity
- pray that he may long ingre
- idol and nraiaugd of the Thai people
- The rootcnoian of the new king
- Imraiiyt training
- ceremonial dtesui
- dcteppiiatar in high-profile events
- King Maha's first acts as hnrarmac
- esneodr Thailand's new constitution

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. j
6. c	7. e	8. a	9. h	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – The people

You think the people are the best thing about a country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as great. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the food, the capital city or the sights.

### Role B – The Food

You think the food is the best thing about a country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as great. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the people, the capital city or the sights.

### Role C – The Capital City

You think the capital city is the best thing about a country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as great. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the food, the people or the sights.

### Role D – The Sights

You think the sights are the best thing about a country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as great. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the food, the capital city or the people.

## Speaking – Thailand

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about Thailand at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| • food    | • people  |
| • hotels  | • weather |
| • Bangkok | • beaches |
| • crafts  | • sights  |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.