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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The rhythmic stomping of the Queen's Guard in front of Buckingham Palace can only mean two things. The Changing of the Guard is happening or the Queen herself is arriving home.

Buckingham Palace is located in Westminster City, the heart of London, and serves as the official residence and administrative headquarters for the monarch of the United Kingdom. It is used as a place for royal hospitality, important state occasions and a focal point for the British people at times of national rejoicing and mourning. Dive into Buckingham Palace's elegant history in this folk art puzzle and maybe you'll catch a glimpse of the Queen!

1. Originally called the Buckingham House, it stood as a large townhouse built for the Duke of Buckingham in 1703 and is the core of the palace today.
2. King George III paid \$32,784 (\$4.7 million now) to buy Buckingham in 1761 as a private residence for Queen Charlotte and became known as The Queen's House.
3. In the 1820's, architects John Nash and Edward Blore enlarged the townhouse by constructing three wings around the central courtyard, which helped rename the building to Buckingham Palace.
4. The last major add-on to the palace was the East Front, which happened in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This famous balcony is where the royal family traditionally congregates to greet crowds.
5. Buckingham Palace holds 775 rooms, which includes 19 state rooms, 52 principal bedrooms, 188 staff bedrooms, 92 offices, and 78 bathrooms.
6. The Buckingham Palace's garden is London's largest private garden, covering 40 acres, which includes helicopter landing area, a lake, and a tennis court. The Queen hosts her annual garden parties each summer, holding large functions to celebrate royal milestones, such as jubilees.
7. The Queen's Guard stationed at Buckingham Palace and St. James' Palace are under the direct command of the captain of the Queen's Guard. The total number is a state secret; those you see are mainly ceremonial.
8. There isn't a square in front of Buckingham Palace. There is a circular area with the Queen Victoria Memorial in the center.
9. The guard's spring and summer uniforms include red tunics and black bearskin hats while their fall and winter uniforms are dark gray.
10. The Yeomen Warders are known for their scarlet and gold uniforms and for performing the Ceremony of the Keys; a ceremony where the gates of the Tower of London are secured each night shortly before 10pm by the Chief warder.
11. From August to September, the public is allowed to enter the Buckingham Palace, mainly in the staterooms.
12. The Queen Mother and King George VI couldn't resist exploring the secret passageways that run beneath the palace's surface and connect to buildings nearby. On one excursion, they apparently met a very polite man from Newcastle, who was living down there.
13. The Changing of the Guard takes place in front of Buckingham Palace every day from April to July and once every 2 days from August until March.
14. The most obvious way of telling if the Queen is at home is to look at which flag is flying above the palace. The Royal Standard flag indicates the Queen is in residence and the British Flag, the red, white, and blue flag, indicates Her Majesty is not.
15. In 1982, a man named Michael Fagan managed to get past the gates and the royal guard, scale the walls of Buckingham Palace and have a brief conversation with Queen Elizabeth before being escorted out by officers. According to an interview the intruder gave *The Independent*, the 33-year-old tripped several alarms and even stole a sip of wine during his time inside the Palace.