

CROWN ROYAL (answer)

by Carroll Ferry

Each picture in this series (except one) hints at a British monarch:

- Picture 1: Charles II. Charlie Brown hints the name "Charles". The Restoration Hardware catalog suggests "The Restoration", which put Charles II on the throne. The smaller picture is of the Great London Fire, which occurred during his reign.
- Picture 2: Henry VIII. The City Solicitors card suggests someone who was repeatedly married and divorced. The crest is of the Church of England, which Henry founded.
- Picture 3: John "Lackland". John Wayne hints the name "John". The newspaper article from Nottingham suggests Robin Hood, John's nemesis in literature. The editorial refers to the Magna Charta, which John signed.
- Picture 4: Elizabeth I. The theater tickets are for the *premiere* of Shakespeare's "As You Like It". The other photos are of Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett, and Miranda Richardson, who all played Elizabeth.
- Picture 5: Elizabeth II. The ocean liner is the Q.E. II. Elizabeth is well-known for her love of Corgis and fancy hats.
- Picture 6: Bloody Mary. The recipe is for the drink called a Bloody Mary.
- Picture 7: Richard III. The chiropractor card refers to how Richard was portrayed as a hunchback in the Shakespeare play. The "Missing" card refers to the two princes rumored to have been locked up and then murdered by Richard. The Memo refers to the line from literature, "for want of a nail a Kingdom was lost."
- Picture 9: Victoria. All the postcards are of places named Victoria: Lake Victoria, Victoria Falls, Victoria Harbor in Hong Kong, and Victoria British Columbia.
- Picture 10: William the Conqueror. William led the Norman invasion of England, culminating in the Battle of Hastings, hence the Army Rate ferry ticket. Coming from France, William would of course need to read "Angle-Saxon for Dummies". The pictures of William Shatner and William Hurt are to suggest the name "William".
- Picture 11: Richard Lionheart. He fought in the Crusades in the Holy Land (Palestine) and was taken hostage and ransomed on his way home. The lion and hearts are further hints.

The one unique picture (number 8) contains the numbers 1-10. It is the “key”.

Put the monarchs in historical order: William the Conqueror, Richard Lionheart, John Lackland, Richard III, Henry VIII, Bloody Mary, Elizabeth I, Charles II, Victoria, Elizabeth II.

Overlay the “key” picture onto each monarch picture and see which letter aligns with the corresponding number in the historical order. For example the 1 on the key aligns with a W on the William the Conqueror picture; the 6 on the key aligns with an R on the Bloody Mary picture.

Once you’ve gotten a letter from each picture and put them in order, it spells out the message: WAS UNREADY.

“Ethelred the Unready” was an early English king, therefore the answer is ETHELRED.