

Test Your Research Skills

Mixed-up Monarchs – Kings and Queens of England to 1603

It seems as if my friend Stanley Baker has swallowed a history book! He has been telling me all sorts of historical facts about England's past. But I think that he's got some of his facts wrong. Take this answerphone message that he left me recently, for example:

"These royals are an interesting lot, you know. I've been finding out all about when they reigned and all that. Let's start with the best king of all. Now then ... King Alfred the Great ruled England before King John, who ruled England before King Stephen, who ruled England after King Canute, who ruled England after King Edward the Confessor, who ruled England before King Henry IV, who ruled England before Queen Mary I, who ruled England after King Richard the Lionheart, who ruled England after King Edward II, who ruled England before King Athelstan, who ruled England before King Edmund I, who ruled England after King William II, who ruled England after King Alfred the Great. Have you got all that?"

How many mistakes has Stan made? _____

Are the following statements true or false?

1. King Alfred the Great ruled England before King John.
2. King John ruled England before King Stephen.
3. King Stephen ruled England after King Canute.
4. King Canute ruled England after King Edward the Confessor.
5. King Edward the Confessor ruled England before King Henry IV.
6. King Henry IV ruled England before Queen Mary I.
7. Queen Mary I ruled England after King Richard the Lionheart.
8. King Richard the Lionheart ruled England after King Edward II.
9. King Edward II ruled England before King Athelstan.
10. King Athelstan ruled England before King Edmund I.
11. King Edmund I ruled England after King William II.
12. King William II ruled England after King Alfred the Great.

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Answers:

Stan has made five mistakes:

1. King Alfred the Great ruled England before King John. (True)
2. King John ruled England before King Stephen. (False)
3. King Stephen ruled England after King Canute. (True)
4. King Canute ruled England after King Edward the Confessor. (False)
5. King Edward the Confessor ruled England before King Henry IV. (True)
6. King Henry IV ruled England before Queen Mary I. (True)
7. Queen Mary I ruled England after King Richard the Lionheart. (True)
8. King Richard the Lionheart ruled England after King Edward II. (False)
9. King Edward II ruled England before King Athelstan. (False)
10. King Athelstan ruled England before King Edmund I. (True)
11. King Edmund I ruled England after King William II. (False)
12. King William II ruled England after King Alfred the Great. (True)

For reference: Kings and Queens of England (871-1603):

King Alfred the Great	871-899
King Athelstan	924-939
King Edmund I	939-946
King Canute	1016-1035
King Edward the Confessor	1042-1066
King William II	1087-1100
King Stephen	1135-1154
King Richard the Lionheart	1189-1199
King John	1199-1216
King Edward II	1307-1327
King Henry IV	1399-1413
Queen Mary I	1553-1558
Queen Elizabeth I	1558-1603

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