

Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah dies

24th January, 2015



Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz passed away early Friday morning. The king was the world's oldest leader. He was 90 years old. He was in hospital a few weeks ago with a lung infection. His 79-year-old half-brother Salman has become the new king of the kingdom. World leaders have been quick

to pay their respects to the late King Abdullah. US President Barack Obama passed on his sympathies. He said the king was a good friend of the USA. Obama also said the king did a lot for peace and stability in the Middle East. The British Prime Minister David Cameron said Abdullah would be remembered for his, "commitment to peace and for strengthening understanding between faiths".

King Abdullah was born on 1 August 1924. He was the thirteenth son of former King Abdulaziz. He grew up in the royal palaces and worked in various positions that would one day prepare him to be king. In 1961 he became mayor of Mecca. This was his first job in public office. In 1963, Abdullah was made commander of the Saudi Arabia National Guard (SANG). He changed the SANG into a modern army. He became King of Saudi Arabia and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in 2005. News agencies are reporting that Abdullah was a careful reformer at home. He allowed women to join the kingdom's parliament. The BBC said that he "hinted that more women should be allowed to work".

Sources: BBC / Al Jazeera / Saudi Gazette / Wikipedia

Writing

A country always needs leaders who change things. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

passed away / oldest leader / hospital / kingdom / pay their respects / peace / stability / royal palaces / various positions / mayor / public office / modern army / parliament

True / False

- King Abdullah was the world's oldest leader. T / F
- The king's 79-year-old step-brother is now the new king. T / F
- Barack Obama was quick to pay his sympathies. T / F
- Cameron said Abdullah would be remembered as a man of peace. T / F
- King Abdullah was the twelfth son of a former Saudi king. T / F
- Abdullah became mayor of Riyadh in 1961. T / F
- Abdullah became King of Saudi Arabia in 2005. T / F
- Abdullah was against women in the kingdom working. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. passed away | a. dedication |
| 2. infection | b. different |
| 3. pay | c. religions |
| 4. commitment | d. suggested |
| 5. faiths | e. disorder |
| 6. former | f. leader |
| 7. various | g. died |
| 8. commander | h. cautious |
| 9. careful | i. offer |
| 10. hinted | j. ex- |

Discussion – Student A

- How do princes get training or experience to be king?
- What more would you like to know about King Abdullah?
- What would you do if you were king (or queen)?
- What are the main duties of a king?
- Would you like to be a member of a royal family?
- What will people most remember King Abdullah for?
- What do you think Saudi Arabia will be like in 20 years?
- What questions would you like to ask an expert on the king?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. passed away | a. infection |
| 2. a lung | b. former King Abdulaziz |
| 3. pay their | c. faiths |
| 4. remembered for his commitment | d. in public office |
| 5. understanding between | e. at home |
| 6. He was the thirteenth son of | f. early Friday morning |
| 7. worked in various | g. allowed to work |
| 8. This was his first job | h. respects |
| 9. a careful reformer | i. to peace |
| 10. women should be | j. positions |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about King Abdullah?
- What do you think about kings?
- Is 90 years old too old to run a country?
- What is a half-brother?
- In what ways was King Abdullah a good friend of the USA?
- What did King Abdullah do for peace and stability?
- How much do you like your country's leader?
- How important was King Abdullah in the world?

Spelling

- The king was the world's oldest laedre
- in hospital with a lung oiieftcnn
- pay their sprtctsee to the late King
- Obama passed on his yiehatpsms
- the king did a lot for peace and tbisaytil
- understanding between afstih
- worked in roiavus positions
- epparer him to be king
- his first job in public iffoce
- News asnieecg
- join the kingdom's menrtplaa
- more women should be llwdeoa to work

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Money

You think money is the best thing about being a leader. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): fame, power or the work.

Role B – Fame

You think fame is the best thing about being a leader. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): money, power or the work.

Role C – Power

You think power is the best thing about being a leader. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): fame, money or the work.

Role D – Work

You think the work is the best thing about being a leader. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): fame, power or money.

Speaking – Leader

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about being leader of a country at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| • money | • power |
| • fame | • travel |
| • meet other leaders | • ability to change things |
| • nice house / palace | • working day |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.