

# The Crown Jewels

The Crown Jewels are a world-famous and unique collection of objects. They have been collected by British royalty over 600 years.

The Crown Jewels have been kept in the Tower of London since the 1600s. Millions of visitors see them each year.

## Swords

There are five swords in the collection. Three of the swords are referred to as the **swords of state**. They are the Sword of Spiritual Justice, the Sword of Temporal Justice and the Sword of Mercy.

They were all given to the Royal Family between 1610 and 1620. They have been used in the coronation of every monarch since 1685.

The other two swords are the Sword of State and the Sword of Offering. All of the swords are encrusted with jewels.



*The Sword of Offering, the Sword of State and the Sword of Mercy*

## Crowns

There are several crowns in the Crown Jewels collection. St Edward's Crown is one of the most important. It is placed on a monarch's head just as they are crowned. It was made in 1661. It is very heavy. Queen Mary's Crown contains the Koh-i-Noor diamond. It is one of the largest cut diamonds in the world.



*Queen Mary's Crown*

## Coronation Spoon

The Coronation Spoon is the oldest item in the Crown Jewels. It was made in the 1100s. It is made from silver-gilt and had four pearls added in the 17th century. It is filled with holy water during a coronation. The bowl is split into two halves. The Archbishop of Canterbury dips two fingers into the spoon and anoints the monarch. The two halves may have been used to mix water and wine originally.



*Coronation Spoon*

## RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. How many swords are there in the Crown Jewels?
2. What is the oldest item in the Crown Jewels?
3. When was St Edward's Crown made?
4. What might the Coronation Spoon have been used to mix when it was first made?
5. How long have the Crown Jewels been collected over?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**E**

Why has the author included writing in *italics* below each picture?

**S**

Name one of the swords in the collection.

**V**

Which word tells you that the Crown Jewels are one-of-a-kind?

**V**

What does the phrase "encrusted with jewels" tell you about the swords?

**P**

Why do you think so many visitors come to see the Crown Jewels each year?

Answers:

1. 5
2. Coronation Spoon
3. 1661
4. Water and wine
5. 600 years

E: It is a caption/it explains what the picture is

S: Sword of State, Sword of Mercy, Sword of Spiritual Justice, Sword of Temporal Justice, Sword of Offering

V: Unique

V: There are lot of jewels all over them

P: They are world-famous and very rare and expensive