

Royal Family

This is a large family of royals: five brothers and three sisters and some pets. (Their mother has died.)

冃 mì *crown



冠 guān crown

冃 + 元 + 寸

crown + beginning + thumb

This is the full form of the character for “crown.” It shows the crown’s line of descent from the beginning, each adding his/her thumbprint.

帝 dì sovereign

立 lì + 冃 + 巾

stand up + crown + towel

The father is the reigning sovereign. You’ve heard of the story: “The Sovereign’s New Clothes”? The sovereign stands up in front of his subjects wearing only a crown and towel.

允 yǔn *crown prince

冃 + 儿

crown + human legs

The oldest son is the crown prince, the next human in line for the crown.

军 jūn army, *chariot

冃 + 车

crown + vehicle

Prince #2 is put in charge of the army. His symbol is the crowned chariot.

写 xiě write

冃 + 与

crown + offer/slingshot

Prince #3 is meant to be a scholar but is always into mischief, trying to distract his father from his writing, with a slingshot.

农 nóng agriculture

冃 + 衣

crown + scarf

Princess #1 is quite practical, taking on the improvement of the realm's agriculture. Like a 4-H queen, she can be seen wearing a crown and scarf.

(冃口冃) *tiara

冃 + 口 + 冃

top hat + mouth + crown

Princess #2 likes bling, especially her tiara. A tiara is a modified 高; a crown where the front part is taller, alternatively: *亮-几

带 dài sash

卅 + 冃 + 巾

30 + crown + towel

Princess #3 is a beauty. Here she is the winner of a beauty pageant with a studded (30-jewel) crown and sash, her dress no bigger than a towel.

旁 páng side [n.], *Columbus

立 + 冃 + 方 fāng

stand up + crown + compass

Prince #4 is a dreamer. Like Columbus, he stands up to the crown with a compass by his side and declares "the earth is round".

冗 rǒng superfluous

冃 + 几

crown + wind

Prince #5 is a royal airhead. He is really quite superfluous.

Royal Stories

缔 dì knotted up

纟 + 帝 dì

threads + sovereign

A new tailor is hired by the sovereign, but he gets knotted up in threads during the fitting, and the tailor is fired.

啼 tí weep aloud

口 + 帝 dì

mouth + sovereign

The sovereign is weeping aloud for the loss of his wife.

蹄 tí hoof

足 + 帝 dì

lower leg + sovereign

The sovereign is always on a horse, so its hooves are really just an extension of his lower legs.

蒂 dì fruit stem

艹 + 帝 dì

flowers + sovereign

If you picture this royal family on a family tree, the sovereign is the stem, and the children are the flowering branches.

枕 zhěn pillow

木 + 允 yǔn

wood + crown prince

The crown prince is convinced that a wooden pillow is good for his posture.

耽 dān indulge

耳 + 允 yǔn

ear + crown prince

Anyone listening to the crown prince must indulge him.

沈 shěn Shen

氵 + 允 yǔn

water + crown prince

Shen is the crown prince's valet, responsible for washing him, dressing him, etc.

辉 huī radiance

光 + 军

ray + chariot

The army prince feels the best next to a chariot, rays radiantly bouncing off the shiny chrome and his crown.

挥 huī brandish

扌 + 军

hand + chariot

The army prince practices the military arts: brandishing a sword with his hand and driving a chariot.

浑 hún engulf

氵 + 军jūn

water + chariot

While chariot-driving on the beach, the prince is engulfed by a big wave.

晕 yūn dizzy

日 + 军jūn

sun + chariot

Driving in his chariot, the prince is dazzled by the sun and gets dizzy, veering off the path.

泻 xiè diarrhea

氵 + 写xiě

water + write

The mischievous prince gets pay back for snitching fried pork rinds from the kitchen: watery diarrhea.

浓 nóng concentrated

氵 + 农nóng

water + agriculture

The agriculture princess's new product: concentrated agriculture in a bottle—just add water!

亮 liàng shiny

(亠口冂) + 几

tiara + wind

Princess Bling uses pressurized cans of air to clean her tiaras to make them shiny.

亭 tíng pavilion

(宀 + 口 + 丁) + 丁 dīng

tiara + nail

Princess Bling's favorite pavilion looks like a tiara on a big nail.

豪 háo unrestrained

(宀 + 口 + 豕)

tiara + sow

Princess Bling has been called Little Miss Piggy for her unrestrained vanity.

毫 háo mill-

(宀 + 口 + 毛)

tiara + fur

Princess Bling makes a math class breakthrough when her teacher says "a million" is like the number of hairs in her fur stole.

滯 zhì stagnant

(氵 + 帶)

water + sash

Princess Beauty loses a pageant, throws her sash into the moat, where you can still see it floating because of the stagnant water.

傍 bàng close to

(亻 + 旁)

persona + side/Columbus

Deep thoughts by Prince Columbus: "The person by your side is close to you."

膀 bǎng upper arm

(月 + 旁)

body part + side/Columbus

Deep thoughts by Prince Columbus: "The body part by your side is your upper arm."

磅 bàng pound

(石 + 旁)

stone + side/Columbus

Deep thoughts by Prince Columbus: "The stone by my side weighs a pound."

榜 bǎng roster

木 + 旁 páng

wood + side/Columbus

Deep thoughts by Prince Columbus: "The wooden tablet by my side is the ship's roster."

壳 ké shell [n.]

士 + 冗

soldier + superfluous

Prince Superfluous is sent off as a soldier and dies in a shelling.

沉 chén profound

氵 + 冗

water + superfluous

At his funeral by the lake, there is profound stillness on the water, no superfluous sound.

Royal Extras

鹤 hè crane

冃 + 隹 + 鸟

crown + special bird + bird

The crane is the crowned royal special bird of all birds.

冤 yuān injustice

冃 + 兔

crown + rabbit

It is injustice that the royal rabbit accidentally gets eaten for supper.

牵 qiān lead along

大 + 冃 + 牛

large + crown + cow

There is a large dog that is the seeing eye dog for the royal cow, who is now blind, leading him along.

壶 hú kettle

士 + 冠 + 业

soldier + crown + profession

This soldier put his mess hall experience to use as a professional kettle keeper for the crown.