



Edward of Woodstock was the oldest son of King Edward III of Britain. He was also:

- The Prince of Wales (from 1343 until his death in 1376);
- The first Duke of Cornwall (from 1337); and
- The Prince of Aquitaine (between 1362 and 1372).

Although he is also known as "The Black Prince" today, that name did not apply to him until the 16th century (around 150 years after his death).

An excellent military leader, Edward of Woodstock was popular during his lifetime, particularly for his battle successes at Crécy and [Poitiers](#) (where the [English longbow](#) played a prominent role in the victories). He became the first Knight of the Garter in 1348.

Historians tell us that Edward became very sick during one of his military campaigns. In Spain, during 1366, he became ill at a time when many of his men suffered (and died) from dysentery.

Edward passed away one year before his father, making him the first Prince of Wales to die before becoming King of England. His young son became Richard II.

At his request, Edward was buried at [Canterbury Cathedral](#) even though he died at Westminster Palace. His tomb is located not far from the shrine of Thomas Becket (the [murdered Archbishop of Canterbury](#)).

This image depicts the effigy on Edward's tomb. It helps us to see how he appeared during his lifetime. The words of his epitaph are inscribed around his effigy:

*Such as thou art, sometime was I.
Such as I am, such shalt thou be.
I thought little on th'our of Death
So long as I enjoyed breath.
On earth I had great riches
Land, houses, great treasure, horses, money and gold.
But now a wretched captive am I,
Deep in the ground, lo here I lie.
My beauty great, is all quite gone,
My flesh is wasted to the bone.*

Click on the image for a full-page view.

Credits:

An unnamed sculptor created the tomb effigy depicting Edward of Woodstock. He is interred at the Canterbury Cathedral.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Edward-of-Woodstock-The-Black-Prince>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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Media Stream

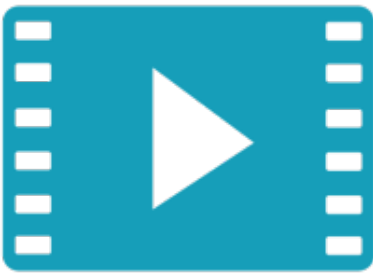


Canterbury Cathedral - Looking North

Image online, courtesy the ciaoadriano.com website.

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English Longbow - How It Works

Clip from *Battlefield Detectives* - "Agincourt's Dark Secrets," original air date December 6, 2003. Online, courtesy The History Channel.

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