

Let's go to London!



London is situated upon both banks of the River Thames; it is the largest city in Britain and one of the largest in the world. Its population is about 7 million people.

London dominates the life of Britain. It is the chief port of the country and the most important commercial, manufacturing and cultural centre. There is little heavy industry in London, but there is a wide range of light industry in Greater London.

London consists of three parts: the City of London, the West End and the East End.



Practice in reading

Elizabeth II

Buckingham Palace

Changing the Guard

The Houses of Parliament

Big Ben

Westminster Abbey

The Tower of London

Beefeaters

Tower Bridge

St. Paul's Cathedral

Downing Street

Trafalgar Square

The British Museum

Royal Albert Hall

Madame Tussaud's

Greenwich Observatory

Planetarium

The London Eye

Hyde Park

London Zoo

Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace is the London home of the Queen. Although in use for the many official events and receptions held by The Queen, areas of Buckingham Palace are opened to visitors on a regular basis. When the flag is flying on the top she is at home. There is the Victoria Monument just outside the gates.



There are 600 rooms in it. It has an indoor swimming pool and a cinema.



The State Room



Gallery



The Throne Room



Garden Pavilion



The Houses of Parliament

The Houses of Parliament, officially the New Palace of Westminster, is the seat of The British government. Parliament consists of the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The House of Commons sits to the side of the Clock Tower (Big Ben), the House of Lords – to the Victoria Tower. The current building was built in the mid-19th century and was designed by British architect Sir Charles Barry.



Big Ben

Big Ben is the great bell in the clock tower on the eastern end of the Houses of Parliament in London. It is named after Sir Benjamin Hall, London's Commissioner of Works. The booming 13.5-ton bell first rang out in 1859.

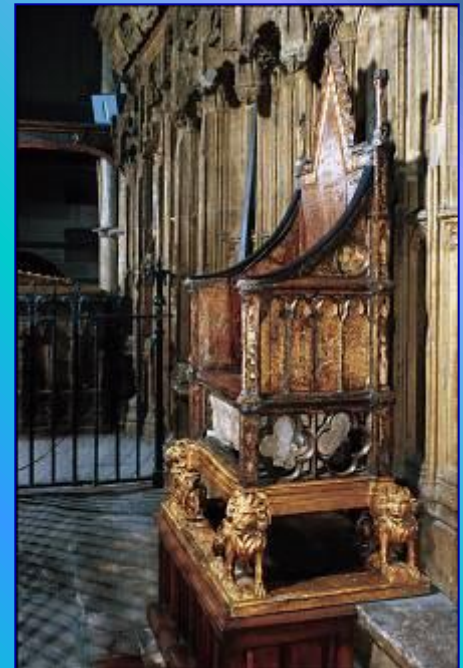


Westminster Abbey

Westminster Abbey is the best-known church in England. It is the crowning and the burial place of British monarchs. It has its world famous Poet's Corner with memorials to Chaucer, Shakespeare, Dickens, Hardy, Kipling and others. It was begun in 1245 for King Henry III. The chapel of Henry VII, designed in the Tudor style, was added in 1503.



Chapel Henry VII



Coronation Chair

The Tower of London

The Tower of London is a very big castle. It is the oldest place and the most famous of all historical buildings in London. It stands today almost unchanged since first it was built in the 11th century. It was a castle, a palace, a zoo, a prison, but it is only a museum today.



The most famous things in the Tower of London are the Crown Jewels. They have the biggest diamond in the world – the “Star of Africa”.



Beefeaters

Ravens have always inhabited the Tower of London, and a centuries old legend says that if the ravens leave, the Tower and kingdom will fall. Being a superstitious person, Charles II decreed that there should always be at least six ravens in residence at the Tower of London. One of the Yeoman Warders is a **Ravenmaster** and cares for the ravens, feeding them meat and bird biscuits. The ravens are well cared for and can live a long time. The oldest raven died at age 44.



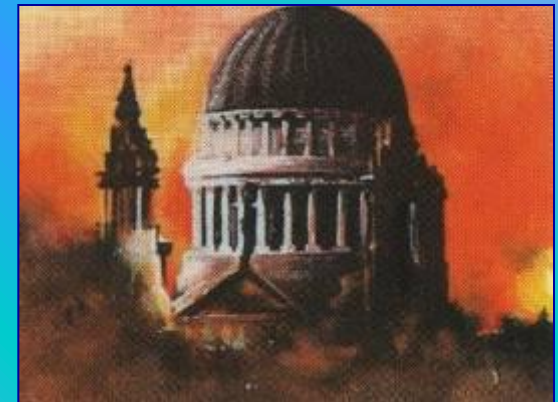
Tower Bridge

The 244m **Tower Bridge** spans the Thames River in London. It was the only movable bridge crossing the Thames when it was completed in 1894. Sir Horace Jones designed the bridge, and Sir John Wolfe Barry built it.



St. Paul's Cathedral

Saint Paul's is the cathedral of the City of London. Its dome is a symbol of London. Old Saint Paul's was destroyed by the Great Fire of London in 1666. The fire was so hot, it melted the cathedral bells. After the fire, Sir Christopher Wren designed a new Saint Paul's. During World War Two, a lot of bombs hit the buildings around Saint Paul's, but the cathedral survived.



Downing Street

No. 10 Downing Street in London has been the official residence of the British prime minister since Sir Robert Walpole in 1732. The Chancellor of the Exchequer lives next door at No. 11. Here, a guard stands in front of the prime minister's front door.



Trafalgar Square

Trafalgar Square is in the centre of the west End of London. On the column in the centre there is a statue of Admiral Nelson who defeated the French at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Trafalgar Square is the place where the meetings and demonstrations take place.



BRITISH MUSEUM

The British Museum, completed in 1847 in London, is English architect Sir Robert Smirke's best-known work. It is one of the largest museums in the world. It consists of the National Library and Museum of History, Archeology, Art and Technology.



Royal Albert Hall

The huge rotunda offers room for 5000 people and the magnificent concert hall, with its purple seats and curtains in the countless boxes, truly has a royal splendor. Completed in 1871, [Royal Albert Hall](#) in London, was designed by British Army engineer General H. Scott. It is one of the city's principal concert halls.



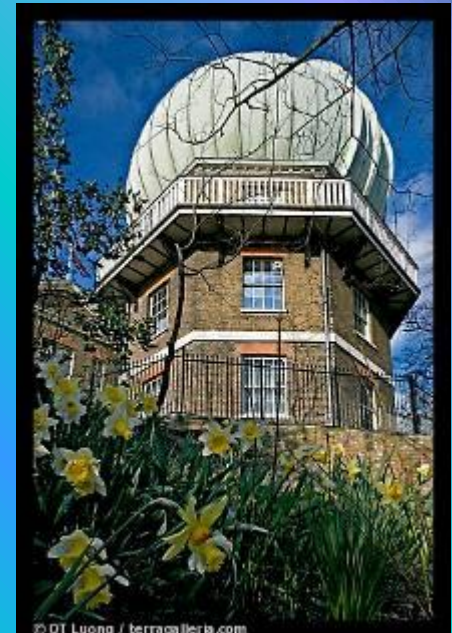
Madame Tussaud's

Madame Tussaud's is the world's most famous wax museum. Every year, over two million visitors go there to see the lifelike wax figures of famous people. You can see famous actors, models, sports, royals and politicians. Famous criminals are kept in the Chamber of Horrors.



The Greenwich Observatory

The Royal Observatory stands on the Prime Meridian – Longitude 0° - you can place one foot in the eastern hemisphere and the other in the western and you can check your watch against Greenwich Mean Time.



Prime Meridian

"Where time begins".



Planetarium

The Planetarium is over forty years old and offers star shows in the great green dome and two interactive zones. The shows last 10-12 minutes with commentary. You can enjoy interactive exhibits before watching the star show. Tussauds London Planetarium, part of Madame Tussauds interactive celebrity experience, is one of the most visited attractions in Europe.



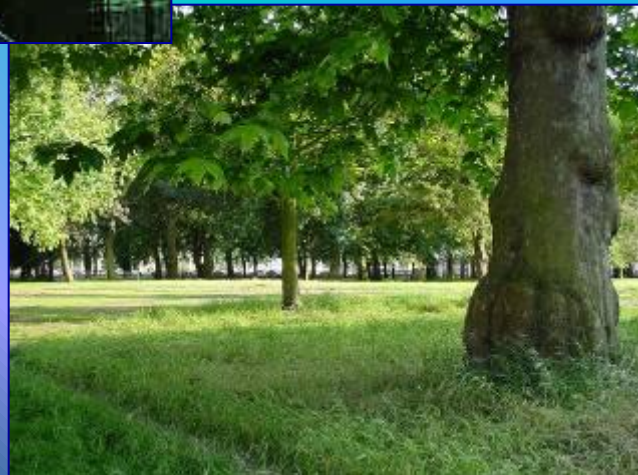
The London Eye

The London Eye is the biggest Ferris wheel in the world. It is the tallest point in London. It was opened on 1 February 2000 in London on the Thames. There's a wonderful view from it.



Hyde Park

Hyde Park is the most famous park in London. It's a pleasure to watch Londoners walk and jog in the park, eat their sandwiches, talk, sunbathe, read books and enjoy music.



London Zoo

London Zoo is situated in the northern part of Regents Park. Its collections contain more than 12000 animals, fish, birds, reptiles and spiders. It is one of the biggest zoos in the world.





London Zoo

Match the places and the pictures

1. Greenwich
2. Madame Tussaud's
3. Buckingham Palace
4. The Tower of London
5. The London Eye
6. Trafalgar Square
7. The Houses of Parliament
8. The British Museum
9. St. Paul's Cathedral
10. Big Ben



The End

