

The National Gallery

The National Gallery is an art museum in London with over 2300 paintings from as far back as the 13th Century. The art collections actually belong to the government on behalf of the British Public. The first collection of paintings was bought in 1824 for £57,000.



Nelson's Column

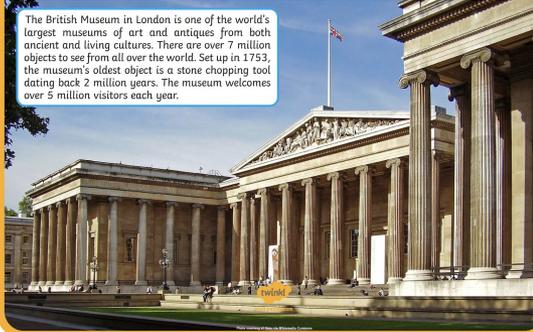


Nelson's Column was built between 1840 and 1843. The granite column is 56 metres high with a 5.5 metre statue of Admiral Nelson. Nelson was part of the British Royal Navy who fought and won four battles during which he lost an arm and an eye. Nelson's Column is in Trafalgar Square and is guarded by 4 huge lions which were made out of the metal from guns.

Section A – Key vocabulary and information

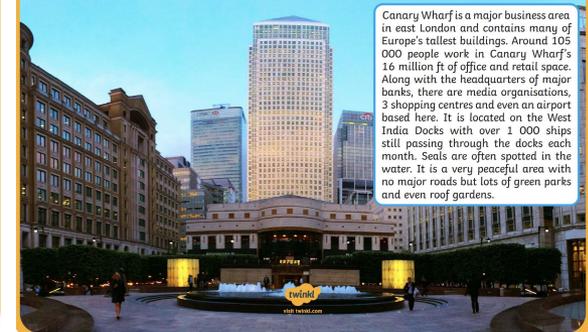
LANDMARK = SIGHT = ATTRACTION

British Museum



The British Museum in London is one of the world's largest museums of art and antiques from both ancient and living cultures. There are over 7 million objects to see from all over the world. Set up in 1753, the museum's oldest object is a stone chopping tool dating back 2 million years. The museum welcomes over 5 million visitors each year.

Canary Wharf



Canary Wharf is a major business area in east London and contains many of Europe's tallest buildings. Around 105,000 people work in Canary Wharf's 16 million ft of office and retail space. Along with the headquarters of major banks, there are media organisations, 3 shopping centres and even an airport based here. It is located on the West India Docks with over 1,000 shops still passing through the docks each month. Seals are often spotted in the water. It is a very peaceful area with no major roads but lots of green parks and even roof gardens.

Westminster Abbey



Westminster Abbey is a large Church in central London. It was built between 1245 and 1272. Over 3,000 famous people are buried in the abbey including Charles Dickens (author of Oliver Twist and A Christmas Carol) and Charles Darwin (Scientist best known for his theory of evolution). The abbey is used to crown British monarchs on the famous Coronation Chair and is also used to host many royal weddings including the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011.

The London Eye



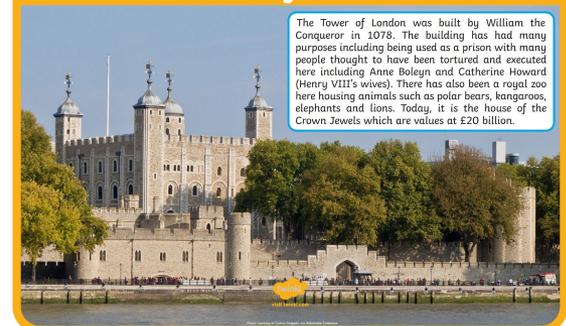
The London Eye is a huge Ferris wheel built on the banks of the River Thames. At the top of the wheel, views of over 35 miles can be seen. It takes 30 minutes to complete one full circle and because it moves so slowly, it doesn't need to stop to let people on or off. It took 7 years to make opening on 31st December 1999 and can carry 25 people in each capsule.

The Shard



The shard is a 309.6 metre tall skyscraper. It was designed in 2000 and contains office space, shops, restaurants, hotels and residential space. The 95 story building has 10,000 panes of glass, 300 flights of stairs and 40 lifts. Most of the materials used to build The Shard have been recycled.

Tower of London



The Tower of London was built by William the Conqueror in 1078. The building has had many purposes including being used as a prison with many people thought to have been tortured and executed here including Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard (Henry VIII's wives). There has also been a royal zoo here housing animals such as polar bears, kangaroos, elephants and lions. Today, it is the house of the Crown Jewels which are valued at £20 billion.

Big Ben



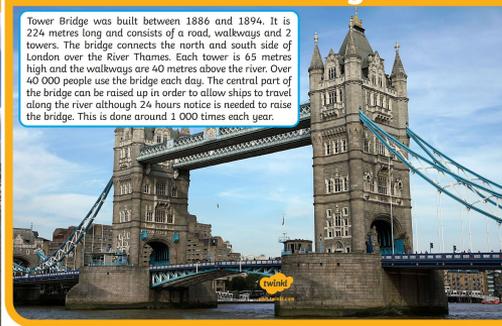
Big Ben is the name given to the huge bell in the clock at the top of the Houses of Parliament. The clock has 4 faces on the Elizabeth Tower and is 55 metres high. Each clock face is 7 metres in diameter. The bell weighs 13.8 tonnes and is 2.2 metres tall. The clock has been ticking above London for over 150 years.

Houses of Parliament



This is where laws about British life are debated and agreed on. Parliament have met here since 1550. After the original building was burnt in a fire, the new building was built in the 1840's and has over 1,100 rooms, 100 staircases and 3 miles of corridors.

Tower Bridge



Tower Bridge was built between 1886 and 1894. It is 224 metres long and consists of a road, walkways and 2 towers. The bridge connects the north and south side of London over the River Thames. Each tower is 65 metres high and the walkways are 40 metres above the river. Over 40,000 people use the bridge each day. The central part of the bridge can be raised up in order to allow ships to travel along the river although 24 hours notice is needed to raise the bridge. This is done around 1,000 times each year.

Buckingham Palace



Buckingham Palace is the official London residence of the British monarch. Queen Victoria was the first monarch to live in Buckingham Palace, before then it was a private house built in 1703. The palace has nearly 800 rooms including 240 bedrooms and 80 bathrooms as well as a post office, cinema and a swimming pool. There are 40 acres of gardens including tennis courts, boating lake and a helicopter pad.

Section A – Key vocabulary and information



church



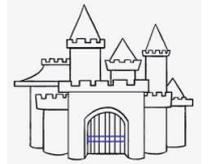
cathedral



tower



palace



castle



skyscraper



bridge

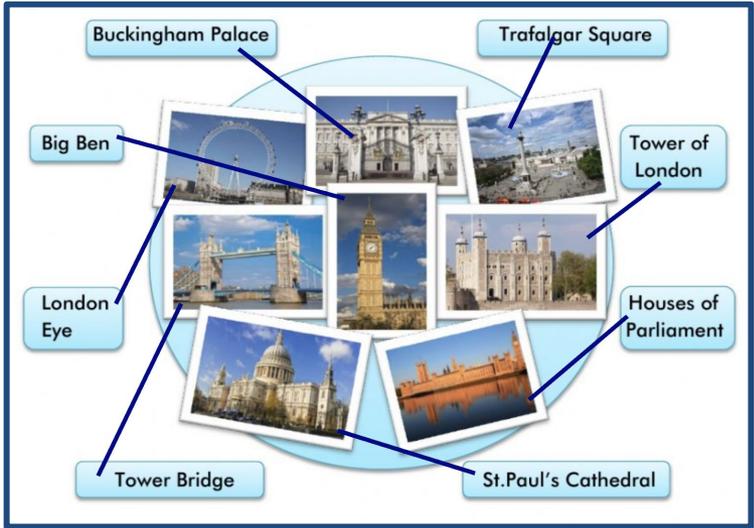


monument

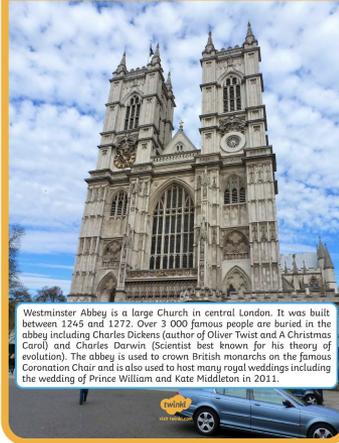
double-decker



- The London Eye has **32** capsules.
- The London Eye was opened in **March** 2000
- The Palace of Westminster is also known as **Houses of Parliament**
- One of the best things in London is its **parks**
- In Regent's Park there is an **Open Air Theatre**
- The polices rides bikes and **horses**
- The Nelson's column is situated in **Trafalgar Square**



Westminster Abbey



Adjectives to describe sights

unique	special, distinctive
unusual	different, not common
interesting	causing interest
breathtaking	wonderful and beautiful
impressive	amazing and very nice
historical	old and about history
popular	liked by other people
spectacular	magnificent, majestic

Wembley Stadium



London Underground



Section A – Key vocabulary and information



Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace is one of the most popular landmarks in London. It is the London residence of the British Royal Family. It was built in 1705. It has got 600 rooms and is surrounded by a wonderful garden.



Big Ben

It is the nickname of the great bell of this clock tower. But the tower is officially called the Elizabeth Tower. It was built in 1858 and its name is due to the first builder of the construction (Benjamin Hall).



Tower of London

This royal fortress is situated on the north bank of the river Thames. It was built in 1066 and different monarchs have lived in this castle. The Tower (or Bloody Tower) has been host to many famous executions and imprisonments.



Westminster Palace

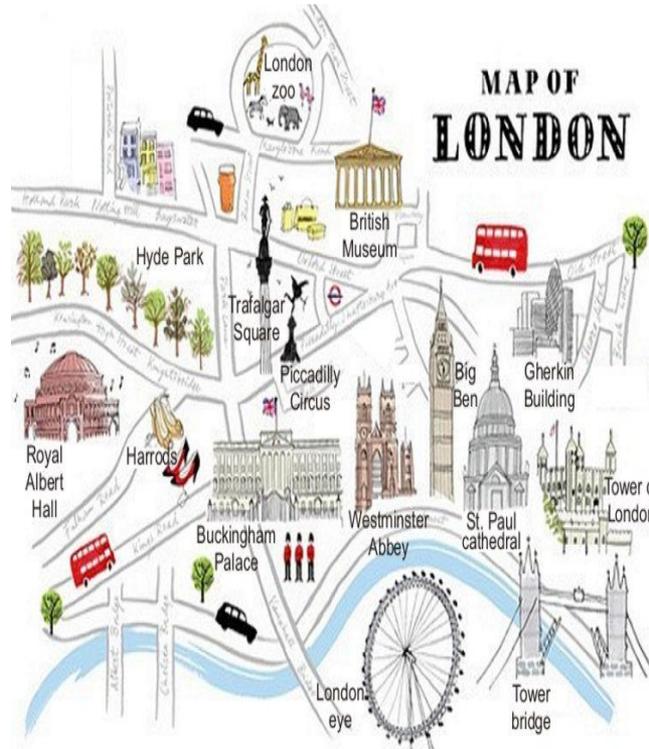
The Palace of Westminster is the United Kingdom Parliament. It is the place where the British politicians meet. It was built in 1860.



The London Eye

The London Eye is another London's modern landmark. It is the biggest ferris wheel in the world. It can carry 800 passengers on a thirty-minute ride. It's 135 metres tall. From the highest point you can see beautiful views of the city.

Section B – London Landmarks Map



Section C – More of London

Landmark	Description
10 Downing Street	Home of the British Prime Minister (Boris Johnson)
British Museum	Museum dedicated to human history, art and culture
Double Decker	Typical red bus with upper and lower deck
Harrods	Famous department store owned by Al Fayed
Local pubs	Where locals and tourists alike have a pint and a meal
Madame Tussauds	Wax museum with famous people
Trafalgar Square	Big square sporting Nelson's Column (statue of Admiral Nelson)



St Paul's Cathedral

The original building was a Saxon church in 606. It was renovated in different occasions during his history. In 1666 there was a fire that affected the building. The current cathedral was built between 1676 and 1710.



Tower Bridge

The Tower Bridge is over the River Thames. It was built in 1894. It is next to the Tower Castle, that's why the name of the bridge is "Tower" Bridge. It is an iconic symbol of London.

Writing task: Write one paragraph:

Which sight would you like to see in London? Why?

Use the sentence starter:

I would like to visit _____ because _____.

London Landmark Facts Sheet - British Museum:

- the world's oldest national public museum
- free entry (no charge) for all visitors
- founded in 1753, it opened its doors in 1759
- contains over 8 million objects
- a vast collection of world art and artefacts

