



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

TOWER OF LONDON



# ACTIVITY TRAIL

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE



SELF-DIRECTED VISITS

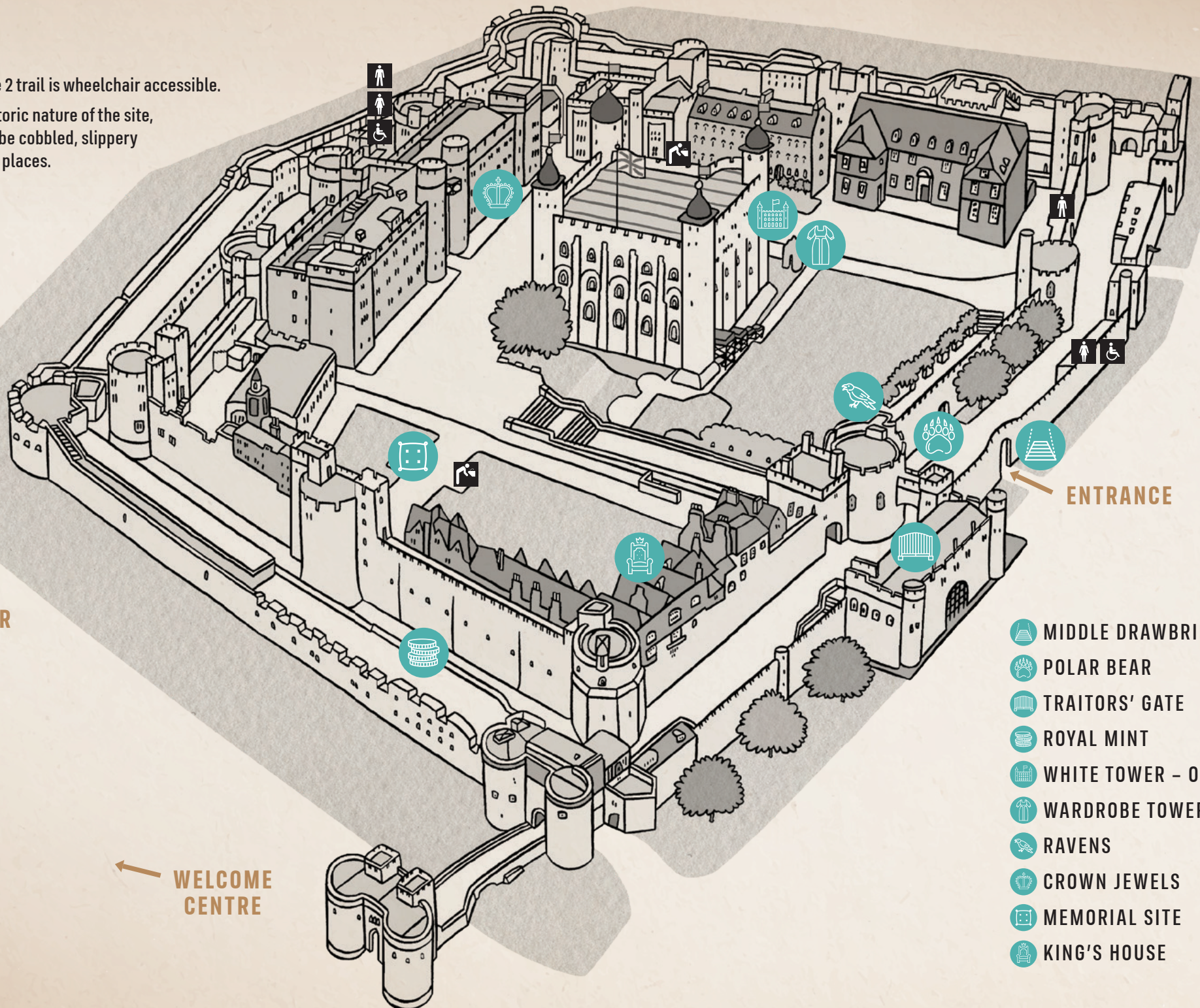
SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE  
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS



This Key Stage 2 trail is wheelchair accessible.

Due to the historic nature of the site, surfaces may be cobbled, slippery and uneven in places.



TOWER HILL

ENTRANCE

WELCOME CENTRE

-  MIDDLE DRAWBRIDGE
-  POLAR BEAR
-  TRAITORS' GATE
-  ROYAL MINT
-  WHITE TOWER - OUTSIDE
-  WARDROBE TOWER
-  RAVENS
-  CROWN JEWELS
-  MEMORIAL SITE
-  KING'S HOUSE



## POLAR BEAR

As well as being home to kings and queens, the Tower of London was also home to animals, given as gifts by other monarchs from all over the world.

In 1235, King Henry III was presented with three lions as a gift from the Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick III. In 1242, the King of Norway gave Henry III a polar bear. The polar bear was chained up but could swim in the River Thames and catch his own fish!



Wire sculptures, like this polar bear, can be found around the site. Tick the boxes when you have found the sculptures below:

POLAR BEAR

BABOONS

ELEPHANT



## TRAITORS' GATE

### FIND TRAITORS' GATE ON WATER LANE

Traitors' Gate used to be called Water Gate, as it was the main entrance to the Tower from the River. It was in the time of Henry VIII that the gate became known as an entrance for prisoners – particularly traitors.



Do you know what a traitor is? Discuss your ideas with a member of your group.



## ROYAL MINT

### FIND YOUR WAY TO MINT STREET, NEAR THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE TOWER



Enter the Mint exhibition and have a go at using the coin press.

The Mint was based at the Tower of London from 1279 – 1812. For 500 years, every coin in the kingdom was made here!



It would have been hot, smelly and very noisy working in the Mint in Tudor times. It would also have been dangerous - even a small mistake could cost you your fingers! Close your eyes and imagine working in the Mint, hundreds of years ago.



## WHITE TOWER - OUTSIDE

TRAVEL ALONG WATER LANE BEYOND THE LANTHORN TOWER AND GO THROUGH THE ELIZABETH ARCH. LOOK UP AT THE WHITE TOWER.



Can you spot the small windows on the top floor? These windows are the only original ones left. They would have been familiar to the first prisoner who escaped from the Tower over 900 years ago!



Ranulf Flambard was the Tower's first prisoner and he was held in the White Tower in 1100.

He was also the first escapee! He smuggled a rope into his room in a barrel of wine and climbed out of a window before fleeing on a horse.



RANULF FLAMBARDB

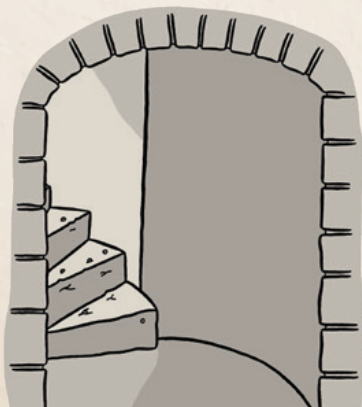


Look for a round turret. Why is one of the turrets this shape? What could be inside it?

The curved turret contains a spiral staircase. This is an excellent security feature! They make it difficult for attackers to get up to the floors above.



Imagine trying to climb a spiral staircase whilst fighting a guard coming down. What could they do to stop you coming up?



## WARDROBE TOWER



Can you spot a ruined building near the White Tower called the Wardrobe Tower?

What do you think might have been kept in this building?

Important items of royal clothing and jewelry would have been stored here, just like in your wardrobe at home – but much bigger!



## RAVENS

DURING YOUR VISIT TO THE TOWER OF LONDON, LOOK OUT FOR OUR 7 RAVENS.

There is an old legend that if the ravens ever left the Tower, then the monarchy and the kingdom would fall! Ravens have been kept here ever since.




A group of ravens is sometimes called an unkindness of ravens or a treachery of ravens. Can you think of a more complimentary word to describe a group of ravens?


A \_\_\_\_\_ of ravens

## CROWN JEWELS

*People with mobility needs and their companion do not have to queue to see the Crown Jewels. Please ask a nearby warder to skip the queue.*


 Hunt down the Crown Jewels! These are priceless treasures that belong to the royal family. They are looked after by a team of warders and guarded by real soldiers.


For many hundreds of years, important items have been kept safe at the Tower.

 If you could wear one item from the Jewel House, which one would you choose?



## MEMORIAL SITE

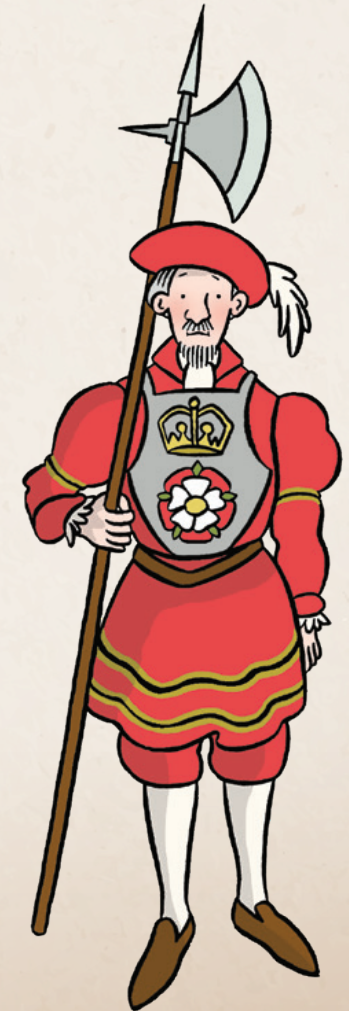
 Look for a glass cushion near the chapel of St Peter Ad Vincula

 How many names can you find? Does this number surprise you?

This is a memorial to the people who were imprisoned and later executed inside the Tower walls.

Most executions took place near Tower Hill and were public events. Only the most important prisoners were executed here – their names are carved on the memorial.

**FROM HERE, LOOK ACROSS THE LAWN TO FIND SOME TUDOR, TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDINGS, GUARDED BY A SOLDIER.**

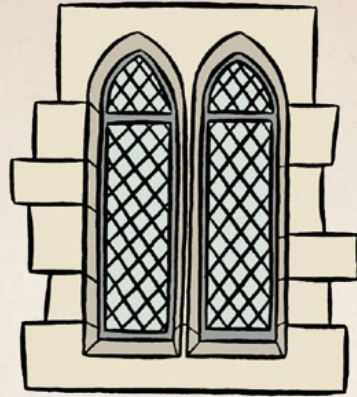




# KING'S HOUSE



Find a Tudor, timber-framed building, guarded by a soldier.



Look up at the first floor window on the right. The room inside is the Council Chamber, where Guy Fawkes was interviewed.



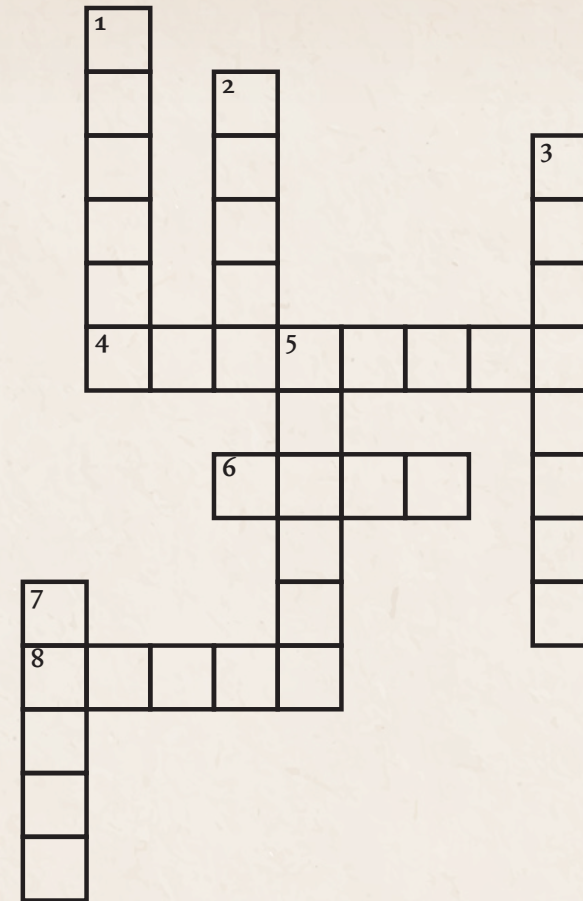
This is the King's House, which changes its name depending on whether there is a king or a queen on the throne.

Famous prisoners held in this building include Lady Jane Grey and Guy Fawkes. Guy Fawkes was questioned here for his role in the Gunpowder Plot.

One of the Tower's best escape stories happened from inside this building. In 1716, Lord Nithsdale dressed up as one of his female visitors and covered his face as if he was crying. He then simply walked out of the Tower!

## ACTIVITIES

Tower of London crossword:



### Down

- 1: A special home where the royal family lives (6)
- 2: The large building in the middle of the Tower of London is called the \_\_\_\_\_ Tower (5)
- 3: A strong building that is well-protected from attack (8)
- 5: A place where people are sometimes held after they have committed a crime (6)
- 7: Today you might have seen the \_\_\_\_\_ Jewels (5)

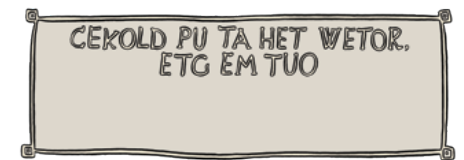
### Across

- 4: A very big, grey animal that was kept in the Tower's menagerie (8)
- 6: A man who is head of the Royal family (4)
- 8: It is said that if these particular birds leave the Tower, the monarchy will end (5)



Unscramble this message from a Tower prisoner:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Activity Answers:

Crossword – Down 1: palace, 2: white, 3: fortress, 5: prison, 7: crown, Across 4: elephant, 6: king, 8: raven  
Unscrambled message – 'Locked up at the Tower, get me out'

