



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

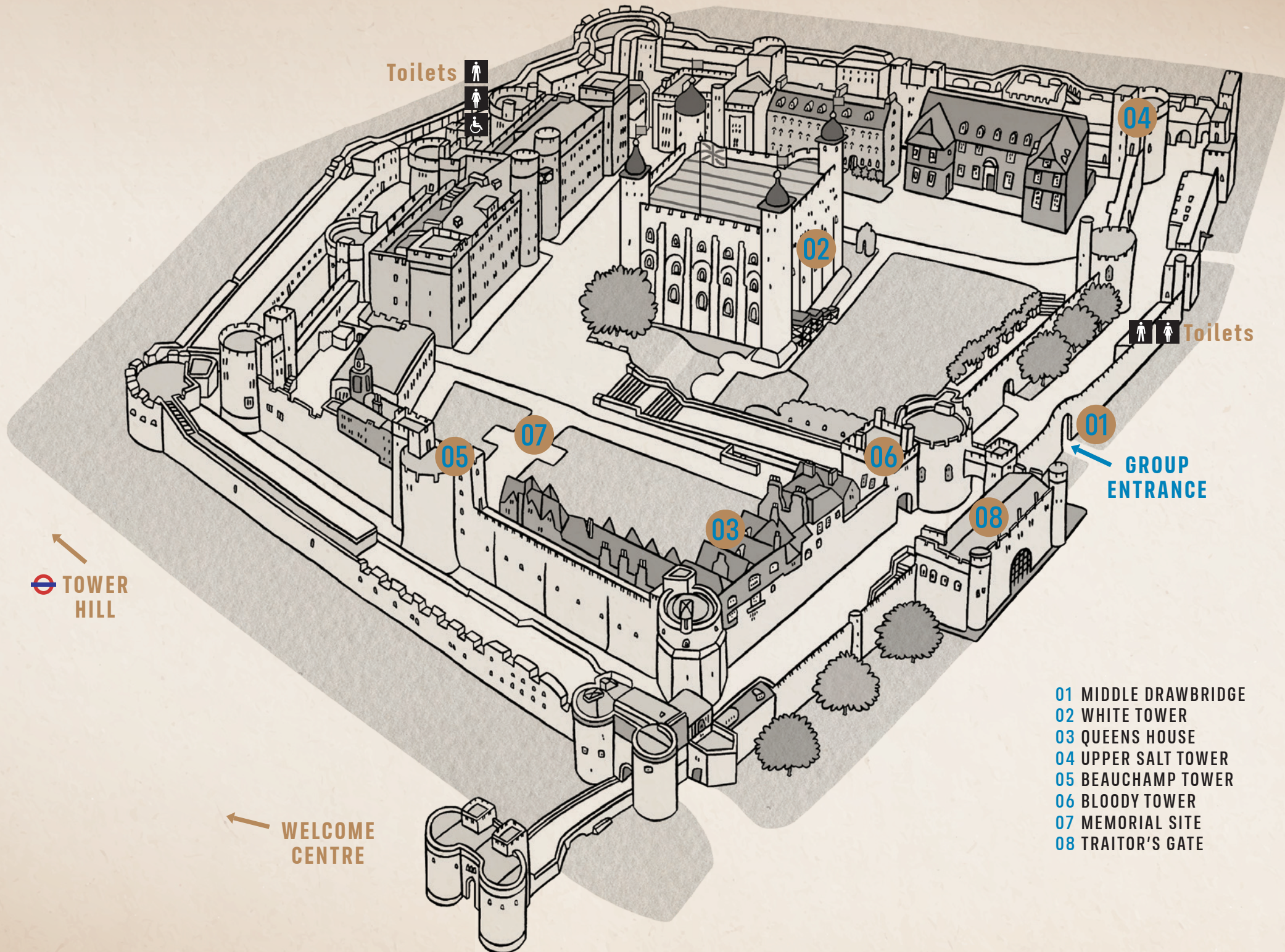
**TOWER OF LONDON**

# **PRISON TRAIL**

**KS1 & KS2 SELF-DIRECTED VISITS  
TEACHERS PACK**

**SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED**

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



Toilets



04

02

Toilets



01

GROUP ENTRANCE

05

07

06

08

03

TOWER HILL

WELCOME CENTRE

- 01 MIDDLE DRAWBRIDGE
- 02 WHITE TOWER
- 03 QUEENS HOUSE
- 04 UPPER SALT TOWER
- 05 BEAUCHAMP TOWER
- 06 BLOODY TOWER
- 07 MEMORIAL SITE
- 08 TRAITOR'S GATE

Our trails are designed for pupils to use in pairs or groups of three. We recommend splitting your class into three groups of 10, with one or two adults per group.



Your class will receive five trails each on the themes of Prison, Palace and Fortress. Each group will focus on a different theme and explore different parts of the Tower of London site. This will enable your class to learn all about the Tower's most important roles, knowledge which can be shared back in the classroom. There are few set routes to follow, and most activities can be completed in any order. These trails will help your pupils navigate the site in their groups, providing a focus for them to explore the Tower's past.

This pack provides group leaders with some background information to add colour to the stories referenced in the Prison trail and can either be used onsite or back in the classroom.

From its earliest days, the Tower of London has had many roles. Its three main roles during its 900-year history were that of a palace, a prison and a fortress.

The Tower of London was built to be a fortress and palace, but it has also been used as a prison since its earliest days. In the Tudor period, it became England's most important state prison. The Tower was actually used as a prison up until the 1960's.

This trail supports your class to find evidence of the Tower's role as a prison.

**Throughout the trail, pupils will be asked to keep in mind the following question: "How useful is this as evidence of the Tower as a prison?"**

After each activity, they will be asked to consider this question and give the evidence a mark out of 5 for usefulness – from 0 (not at all) to 5 (extremely useful).



# WHITE TOWER

Ranulf Flambard was the Tower's first prisoner and was held in the White Tower shortly after the building was completed. He was the Bishop of Durham and King William II's chief treasurer, extorting taxes from the people of England and making himself very unpopular. When Henry I came to the throne, he imprisoned Flambard in the Tower on charges of embezzlement.

Flambard is notorious for not only being the first prisoner of the Tower, but also its first escapee. As befitting his high status, he was allowed to live in relative comfort, his imprisonment being similar to house arrest. As such, he was allowed to have access to luxuries if he paid for them and a barrel of wine was one such item! Flambard had arranged to have a rope hidden in the barrel and once he had got the guards so drunk that they fell asleep, he used the rope to lower himself out of the window to his freedom.

At the time there were no concentric castle walls, so once he reached the ground, he was able to flee to France on a waiting horse.

This story illustrates the fact that, despite the Tower not being intended for use as a prison, it was used as one from its very earliest days due to its secure nature. As the site expanded and inner and outer curtain walls were added, as well as a moat, it became even more of a secure, and by the Tudor period, it was England's most important state prison.

# WHITE TOWER

## LOOK UP AT THE WHITE TOWER FROM THE ARCHES NEAR THE RAVEN'S CAGES



Can you spot the two small windows on the top floor?

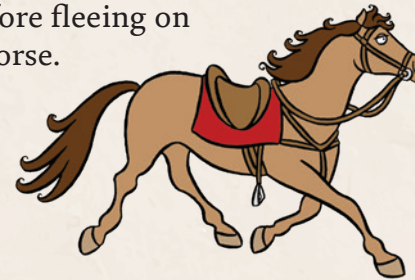
These windows are the only original ones left. They would be familiar to the first prisoner who escaped from the Tower over 900 years ago!

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

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



RANULF FLAMBARDB



Imagine you are about to climb down a rope from the top of the White Tower. Tell a partner how you feel.

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:



# QUEENS HOUSE

The Queens House (which always takes its name from the current monarch) is a Tudor building which has long been the primary residence of the most important person in the Tower – the Constable of the Tower. It is closed to the public and has a history of housing some of the Tower's most high profile prisoners.

One such prisoner is Lady Jane Grey, also known as the Nine Days Queen. It is believed that she was kept in one of the buildings adjoining the Queen's House following her imprisonment by her half sister, Mary, on Mary's accession to the throne. As a potential figurehead for Protestants, she was sentenced to death and executed on 12 February 1554. She was just 17 years old. Lady Jane Grey was executed near Tower Green, the execution scaffold being visible from her prison lodgings.

There is a well known painting entitled *The Execution of Lady Jane Grey* by Paul Delaroche which hangs in the National Gallery in London and depicts her final moments.

The Queens House is also where Guy Fawkes was imprisoned and interrogated following the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605. There is a plaque from 1608 commemorating the interrogation that hangs in the upstairs Council Chamber. Guy Fawkes signed his legendary confession here, with its wobbly signature believed to have been caused by the effects of the torture he endured on the rack. Fawkes was sentenced to death by hanging, drawing and quartering and was executed on 31st January 1606.

# QUEENS HOUSE



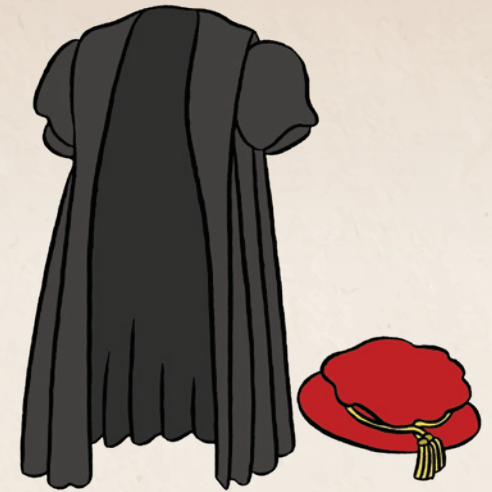
Find a Tudor, timber framed building which is guarded by a soldier.

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

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



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



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!



Imagine you are a prisoner in the Tower. What would your escape plan be?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



# UPPER SALT TOWER

The Upper Salt Tower is known to have held many heretics during the reign of Elizabeth I. Most of the Tower's prisoners throughout its history were either accused of heresy or treason. Heretics held opposing religious views to the monarch, so during Elizabeth I's reign, prisoners were predominantly Catholic. When Mary I was queen, those being brought to the Tower held Protestant beliefs. In this building, there is some primary evidence of the imprisonment of Catholics in the form of wall carvings, or graffiti. Symbols including hands and feet (representative of stigmata), crosses and the letters IHS are examples carved by some of the Catholic prisoners during Elizabeth's reign. IHS represents Jesus Christ and is used as a Jesuit symbol (Society of Jesus).

Many influential Jesuits were imprisoned as heretics under Elizabeth I, including Father John Gerard and Father John Arden.

During their imprisonment – Gerard in the Upper Salt Tower and Arden in the Cradle Tower – Gerard hatched an ingenious escape plan. He persuaded his guard to allow him to send a letter to friends outside of the Tower, along with some crosses made from orange peel. Within the note, he had concealed a secret message using orange juice, which was invisible until heated by a flame. The plan involved friends waiting in a boat on the river with a rope, which was attached and pulled up using a weighted cord thrown from the Cradle Tower. One night, the priests persuaded a guard to allow them to meet for prayer in Arden's cell, which overlooked the river. They carried out their escape exactly as planned and fled to freedom on the continent.

# UPPER SALT TOWER

**HEAD TOWARDS THE NEW ARMOURIES CAFÉ. FIND THE COURTYARD NEXT TO THE ELEPHANT SCULPTURE AND CLIMB THE STAIRS**



Look for religious prisoner carvings in the Upper Salt Tower. This includes crosses, hands, feet and the symbol IHS, which stands for the Society of Jesus.



This building was used for holding prisoners when Elizabeth I was on the throne. Most of the people imprisoned at that time were here because they had different religious beliefs to the queen!



Do you have a religion or strong beliefs? Imagine being put in prison just because the king or queen has different views to you!

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

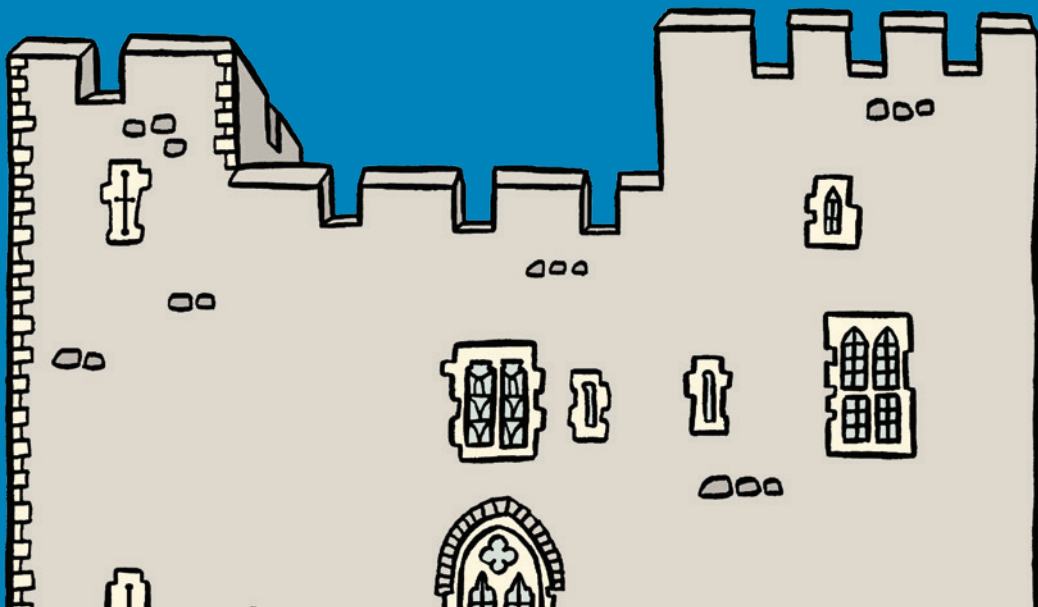
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# BEAUCHAMP TOWER

Thomas Abel was a prisoner in the Upper Beauchamp Tower under Henry VIII. He was the chaplain to Katherine of Aragon and his crime was to publish a treatise stating that the king's divorce to Katherine of Aragon was against the law. He was accused of treason and executed at Smithfield in 1540. Whilst a prisoner, he carved an image of a bell – also known as a rebus – to represent his surname.

As England's most important state prison, the Tower held predominantly high-status prisoners, or those who posed a direct threat to the king or queen through their words and actions.

In the Lower Beauchamp Tower, there is an exhibition of some of the Tower's most infamous prisoners. It covers the entirety of the Tower's history, from its very first prisoner in 1100 to military prisoners of the mid-twentieth century. These stories reflect religious and political events in England over the past 500 years, and many of the people involved are significant people in history. Some of their names are even visible in the graffiti on the first floor, such as Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel. Their stories can be further explored back in the classroom.



## BEAUCHAMP TOWER - UPSTAIRS



Can you find a carving that looks like a bell?

Clue: it's by a window.

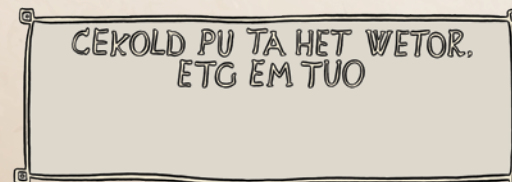
Thomas Abel was a prisoner in 1533. His crime was to say that Henry VIII's divorce to Katherine of Aragon was against the law. He carved this symbol to represent his surname.

## BEAUCHAMP TOWER - DOWNSTAIRS



Look at the exhibition of Tower prisoners. Some stories may surprise you!

Although the Tower wasn't built as a prison, it was used as one for hundreds of years.



If you were to design a picture to represent your name, what would it look like? Doodle it here:

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



Imagine you are a prisoner in this room and you are looking at the graffiti carved by prisoners who were there before you. How does it make you feel?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5

# BLOODY TOWER

Walter Raleigh was bought to the Tower as a prisoner three times for displeasing first Queen Elizabeth I, and later King James I. Like other high-status prisoners, although he was not allowed to leave the Tower, he lived here comfortably. His family could stay with him, he had a library of books and he grew exotic plants and herbs in the garden, from which he created cordials and medicines.

The room on the ground floor of the Bloody Tower is presented as it might have been during Raleigh's imprisonment, which spanned a total of 14 years. Wealthy prisoners paid for their board and lodging and could decorate their cells in a manner befitting their status and wealth. This included comfortable furniture, wall hangings and access to servants and good food.

Originally called the Garden Tower, it was renamed the Bloody Tower to reflect the mysterious disappearance and presumed murder of the two princes, sons of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville. Their story is told in the upstairs room. If you want to share the story with your class, you can also visit the location (halfway up the White Tower's wooden staircase) where two bodies, believed to be those of the princes, were found hidden in a wall cavity in the seventeenth century.

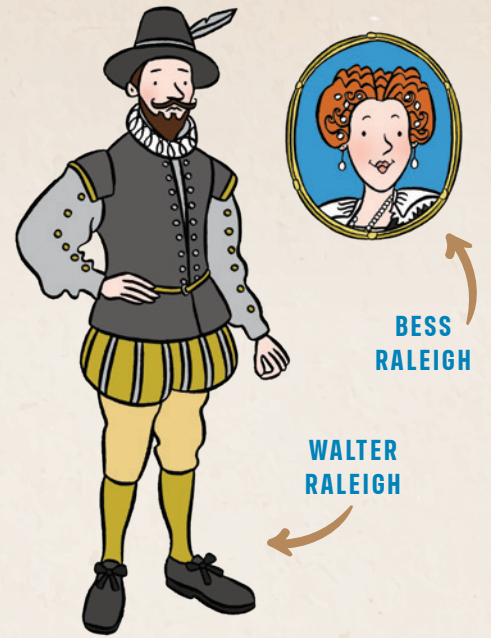
# BLOODY TOWER

**HEAD TO THE LEFT OF THE QUEEN'S HOUSE AND ENTER THE BLOODY TOWER**



Can you find out which famous explorer was once a prisoner in this building?

Walter Raleigh was bought to the Tower as a prisoner three times. Like other high-status prisoners, although he was not allowed to leave the Tower, he lived here quite comfortably. His family could stay with him, he had a library of books and he grew exotic plants and herbs in the garden!



BESS RALEIGH

WALTER RALEIGH



Walter Raleigh used to create cordials and medicines using herbs from the Tower garden. Have a look at them and imagine what you could make.

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5





## MEMORIAL SITE

A glass cushion near Tower Green is a memorial to the people who were imprisoned and later executed inside the Tower walls. Most prisoner executions took place near Tower Hill and were public events. Only the most important prisoners were executed here on the scaffold site, for reasons of privacy and security. Their names are carved on the memorial and include three Tudor queens of England: Anne Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey and Catherine Howard.

Incidentally, the fourth prisoner to have been executed on site on the orders of Henry VIII was also a woman, Lady Margaret Pole. She was the Countess of Salisbury and niece to two kings – Edward IV and Richard III. Her son, Cardinal Reginald Pole, angered Henry VIII by refusing to acknowledge the king's supremacy over the Pope. The Countess was later implicated in suspected Catholic uprisings, imprisoned and sentenced to death.

## TRAITOR'S GATE

Traitors Gate was originally called the Water Gate, as it was the main entrance to the Tower from the river after it was built by Edward I. Legend has it that Princess Elizabeth was brought into the Tower this way when imprisoned by her half-sister, Mary I, in 1554. However, it is believed she may actually have entered through a smaller water gate known as the Byward Postern.

It was during the Tudor period that the Water Gate became used as an entrance for prisoners arriving at the Tower. Accessing the site from the river prevented supporters from gathering on Tower Hill and attempting to overthrow the guards.

## MEMORIAL SITE



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

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.



How many names can you find? Does this number surprise you? Tell a partner what you think of the memorial.

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5

## TRAITOR'S GATE

### FIND TRAITOR'S GATE ON WATER LANE

Traitors Gate was originally called the Water Gate, as it was the main entrance to the Tower from the river.



Do you know what a traitor is? Discuss your ideas with a partner.

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



Draw an example of the evidence you found that shows us the Tower was a prison.



**WELL DONE FOR FINDING  
OUT ABOUT THE TOWER'S  
ROLE AS A PRISON!**

If you have more time, you can learn about its other two important roles as a **FORTRESS** and **PALACE**.

