



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

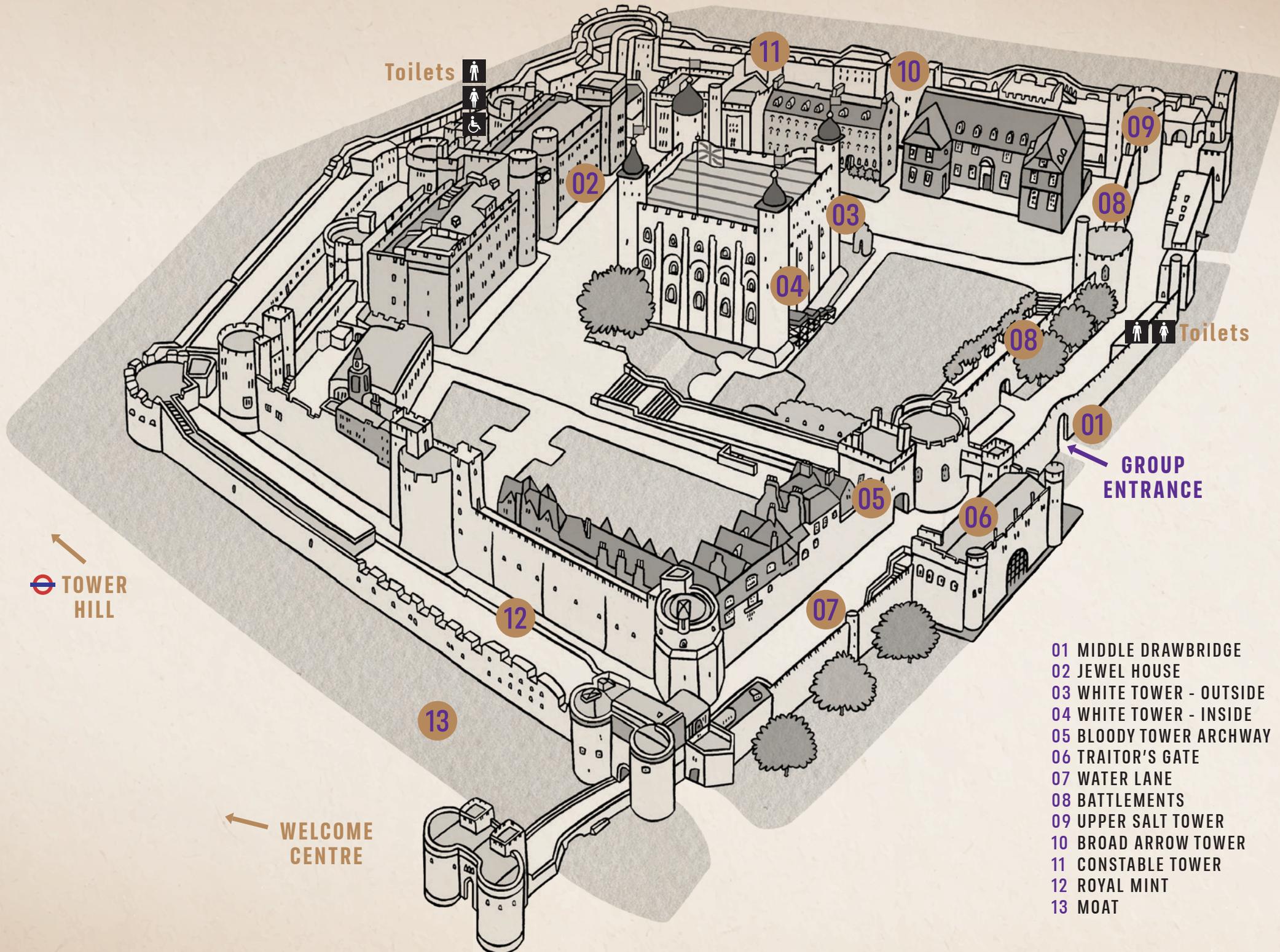
TOWER OF LONDON

FORTRESS 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



Toilets



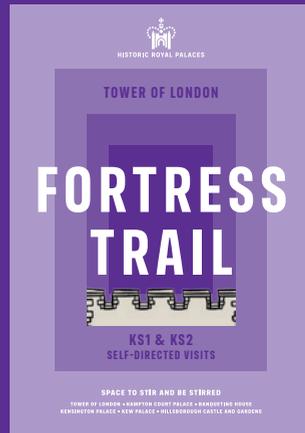
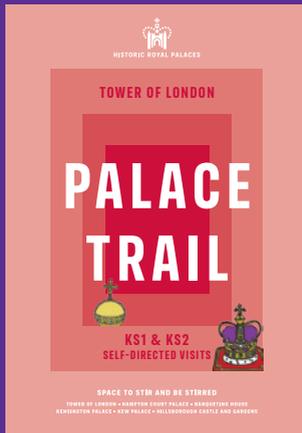
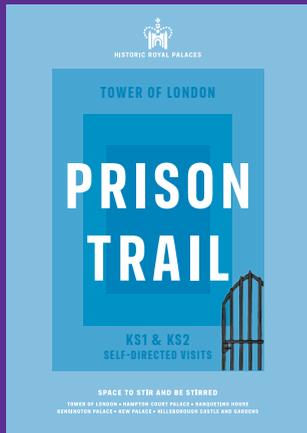
GROUP ENTRANCE

TOWER HILL

WELCOME CENTRE

- 01 MIDDLE DRAWBRIDGE
- 02 JEWEL HOUSE
- 03 WHITE TOWER - OUTSIDE
- 04 WHITE TOWER - INSIDE
- 05 BLOODY TOWER ARCHWAY
- 06 TRAITOR'S GATE
- 07 WATER LANE
- 08 BATTLEMENTS
- 09 UPPER SALT TOWER
- 10 BROAD ARROW TOWER
- 11 CONSTABLE TOWER
- 12 ROYAL MINT
- 13 MOAT

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 Fortress trail and can either be used onsite or back in the classroom.

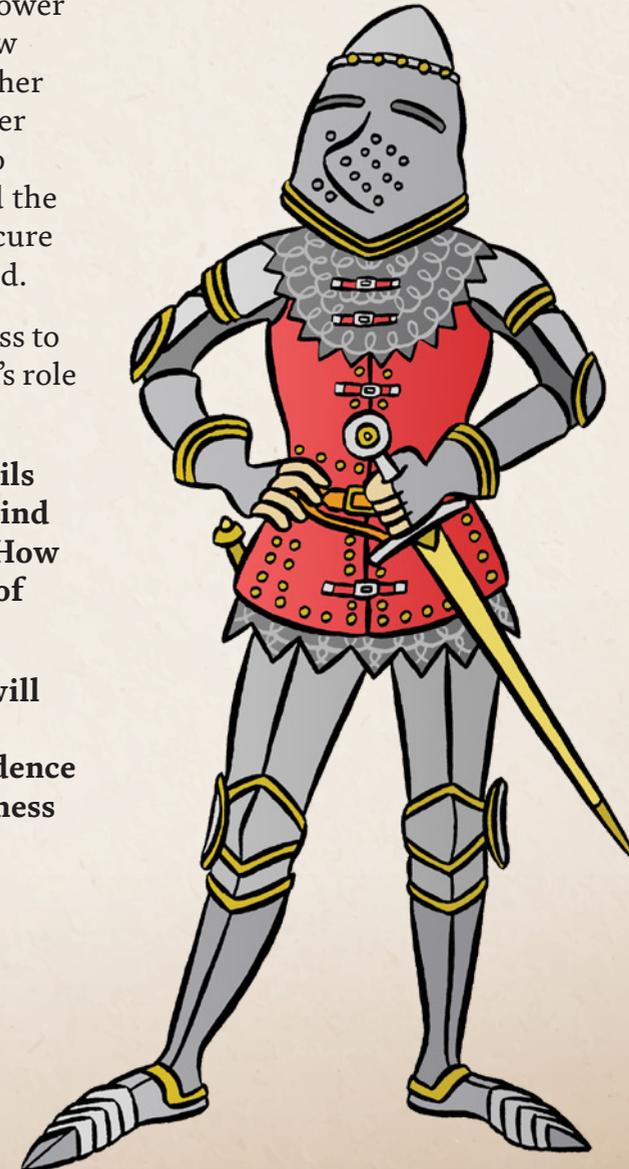
From its earliest days, the Tower of London has had many roles. Its three main roles during its 900-year history were that of a palace, a prison and a fortress.

When William the Conqueror began building the White Tower in 1078, it showed off his power and wealth. As the site grew over the centuries many other buildings, as well as an outer curtain wall, were added to strengthen the fortress and the Tower became the most secure concentric castle in England.

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

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 fortress?"

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).



THE TOWER MINT AND JEWEL HOUSE

From about 1279 until 1812, every coin in the realm was minted at the Tower of London. Edward I located the Mint within the Tower walls as its security was crucial. The area where the Mint was located became known as Mint Street, and it was a very dirty and noisy working environment. Coins were made by hand until the 1700's, which was a dangerous business, and many workers lost fingers before the process became more mechanised.

One example of the dangerous nature of the work is the story of William Foxley. A potter in the Mint in the 1540's, Foxley fell asleep whilst on duty and could not be woken up for 14 days and 15 nights! It is said that King Henry VIII himself came to have a look at him. When he finally awoke, he was apparently fully recovered and lived for a further 40 years. It is thought that he may have suffered from heavy metal poisoning – recent excavation work onsite discovered high levels of lead and arsenic inside pots from the period.

Monarchs have used the Tower throughout its history for storing their most valuable possessions. Today, the Crown Jewels are stored here in a vault and guarded by a garrison of soldiers. These are real soldiers and their job is to protect the buildings and collections, which are still owned by the royal family today. Most items in the collection date from the reign of Charles II, as many older items were melted down during the Interregnum. However, some of these do remain in the collection, including an eleventh century coronation spoon. Every item in the collection is real and many are used for ceremonies, including the Imperial State Crown, which is used for the State Opening of Parliament.

TOWER MINT

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



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

The Mint was based at the Tower from 1279 – 1812. For 500 years, every coin in the kingdom was made here! This is because it was the safest place to store the country's money.



Close your eyes and imagine working in the Mint in Tudor times. It would have been hot, smelly and very noisy. Even a small mistake could cost you your fingers!

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5

JEWEL HOUSE



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

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



If you could wear one thing in this room, which item would you choose?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



THE WHITE TOWER

When the building of the Great Keep began in 1078, it displayed the power and wealth of the new king, William the Conqueror, following his victory at the Battle of Hastings. It wasn't known as the White Tower until 1240 when Henry III had it painted white.

It was built between 1078 and 1100 and when completed it stood taller than every building in London, apart from St Paul's Cathedral. It has been altered many times over the past 900 years, but there are still original features, such as the small windows on the top floor of the south face. The tram lines to the east of the White Tower mark the position of the old Roman city wall, which the Normans incorporated into their building to provide extra fortifications.

When the White Tower was first built, optical illusions were included to make it appear even bigger and more impressive than it really was.

Additional chimneys were added to fireplaces to make it seem that more fires were burning. This was a clever trick to make it look like there were more soldiers inside than in reality. There was also a third row of windows added which gave the appearance of a third floor, although one was not actually added until the seventeenth century, when the building became a storehouse.

During the Second World War, the displays inside the White Tower were removed to make room for the military who were stationed here. The building was split up into different areas and included a library, a concert hall, a sports hall, a canteen and an air raid shelter in the basement.

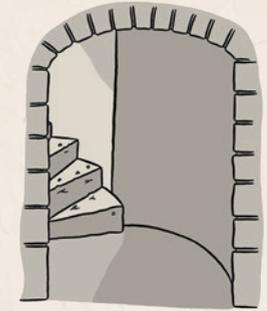
THE WHITE TOWER - OUTSIDE

HEAD TOWARDS THE WHITE TOWER FROM THE GROUP ENTRANCE

ON YOUR WAY, HAVE A LOOK AT THE CANNONS DISPLAYED ON WATER LANE. THESE REFLECT THE TOWER'S ROLE AS A CASTLE AND MILITARY BASE.



Look up at the White Tower through the archway on Water Lane. What do you notice about its size, shape and colour?



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

Did you know that the White Tower was originally called the Great Keep? It wasn't called the White Tower until it was whitewashed 140 years after it was built.

This curved turret contains a spiral staircase. These are excellent security features! They make it difficult for attackers to get up to the floors above.



Imagine you have arrived at the Tower by boat. How do you feel looking up at the castle for the first time?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



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

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



THE WHITE TOWER - INSIDE



Look for the suits of armour made for Henry VIII and his son, Edward VI. What do you notice about them?

During a joust, knights would dress themselves and their horses in armour for protection and wear colours and symbols that represented their family.



Imagine you are a Tudor knight dressing for a joust. What colours and symbols would you choose to wear?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



DEFENSIVE FEATURES AND BATTLEMENTS

The Tower of London is England's largest concentric castle. It has two lines of defence, an inner curtain wall and an outer curtain wall. The site began with just the White Tower, which was built up against the eastern side of the Roman city wall. Over the centuries, monarchs expanded the site to fill the area it does today. There are approximately 28 towers inside the castle walls, with many more domestic buildings that are lived in by the Yeoman Warders, their family and other staff. There are many defensive features built into the buildings. Around the outer towers, you will see battlements and arrow slits, from which the Tower would have been defended by archers. There are also portcullises above some archways as well as 'murder holes', which were used for pouring boiling oil or other liquids onto the heads of enemies! Inside the Bloody Tower, you can see the workings of the portcullis that hangs over the archway underneath.

Another defensive feature is the wooden staircase leading up to the White Tower. Whilst this is a modern replacement, it would always have been made of wood to provide a final line of defence against attackers. Should the Tower's security have been breached, those inside the Tower walls would have been able to withdraw into the White Tower and burn the staircase down behind them.

There is only one occasion in history when the Tower was successfully invaded. In 1381, there was an uprising about the introduction of poll tax (later known as the Peasants Revolt), and a group of people managed to breach the Tower's defences. The only way this would have been possible is if they had support on the inside, and it is likely that some of the guards simply opened the gates and let them in.

DEFENSIVE FEATURES



Portcullises were lowered if the fortress was under attack. The wooden staircase leading up to the White Tower could also be burnt down to stop attackers from getting into the building.

HEAD TO THE ARCHWAY OPPOSITE TRAITOR'S GATE



Can you spot any evidence of the Tower's role as a fortress from here?

As a fortress, the Tower has lots of defensive features. Arrow slits allowed archers to shoot arrows out through a small gap whilst keeping them safe inside.



Can you think of anything you might need to take with you into the White Tower if the castle was under attack?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5

BATTLEMENTS



Look down at the wall you are standing on and across to the wall that leads out onto the wharf. Why do you think there are two walls between the White Tower and the river?

When the White Tower was built, there was only one wall around the building. As the years went by, kings and queens added more walls and towers to the site, until it became the complex of buildings you see today.



Imagine that you are one of the king's knights. What could you do to defend the Tower against attackers?

Talk through your ideas with a partner.

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



Look at all of the buildings outside the Tower walls. Can you spot any that are taller than the White Tower? Which building do you think is the most impressive today?

Hundreds of years before tall office buildings appeared in the City of London, only St Paul's Cathedral to the west would have been taller than the White Tower.

WALK THROUGH THE UPPER SALT TOWER AND ALONG TO THE BROAD ARROW TOWER AND CONSTABLE TOWER



Can you find any information about the one time in history that the Tower was invaded?

Despite being England's largest and strongest concentric castle (inside two rows of walls), the Tower was successfully invaded in 1381 during what became known as the Peasant's Revolt.



Pretend that you are an Anglo Saxon who has seen the White Tower for the first time. What words would you use to describe it?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



Imagine that you are one of the people who invaded the Tower in 1381. How did you get inside?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



KEEP LOOKING!

Around the site, there is some evidence of the types of weapons used to defend the Tower. In the moat, you may be able to see a trebuchet, which would have been used to fling heavy rocks or other missiles at medieval attackers. There are also examples of ceremonial cannons that represent the Tower's role as a military base. These can be found around Water Lane and outside the White Tower, as well as next to The Fusilier Museum.

Inside the museum, you can find information on the Tower's more recent role as a fortress and garrison, including during the First and Second World War. During the First World War, new recruits were signed up and trained in the moat, and soldiers from regiments such as the Second Battalion Scots Guards were deployed abroad from their base at the Tower.

It is important for pupils to understand that the Tower site has undergone many transformations over the 900+ years since the White Tower was first built. Many buildings that used to exist fell into disrepair – you can still see the ruins of the Wardrobe Tower and Coldharbour Gate Tower, the latter of which was destroyed by an air raid in 1941. Some have been damaged by fire and rebuilt. Over the centuries, new buildings were added and old ones adapted and repurposed.

KEEP LOOKING!

THERE ARE CLUES TO THE TOWER'S LIFE AS A FORTRESS EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK



Can you find an early example of a weapon used to defend the Tower from its enemies?

Clue: It is in the moat and can be seen from the main entrance.



Can you spot any more modern weapons around the site?

Clue: Head along Water Lane and go through the archway towards the New Armouries cafe.

This weapon is called a trebuchet. It is a type of siege engine used to catapult stones or other missiles at attackers outside of the castle walls.

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:



On Water Lane and to the east of the White Tower, you can find examples of the types of cannons used in the past. These remind visitors that the Tower is a fortress and a military base.

During both world wars, soldiers stayed here and had their own library, sports hall, canteen and concert hall!

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:





Look for the soldiers standing guard and marching around the site.

Clue: There are two guards outside of the Jewel House, where the crown jewels are kept.



Did you know that the Tower's full name is Her Majesty's Palace and Fortress the Tower of London? Many ceremonies take place here, including the 600-year-old Ceremony of Keys, when the Tower is locked up at night and unlocked in the morning.

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



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

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

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