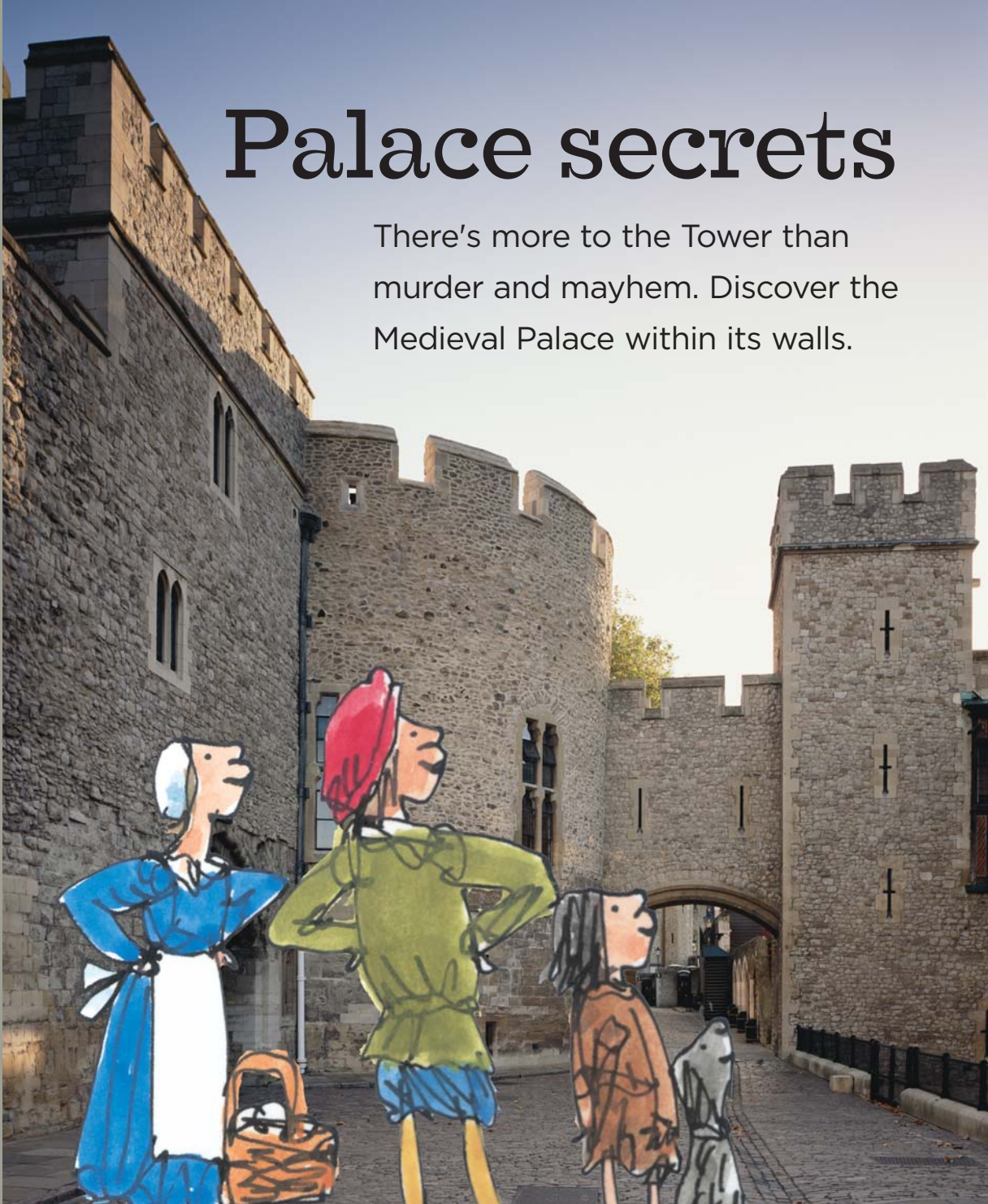
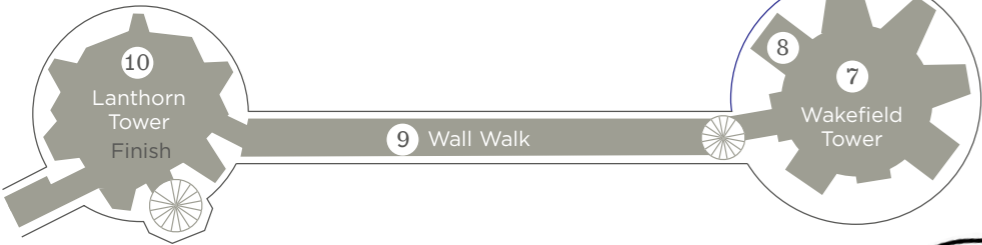
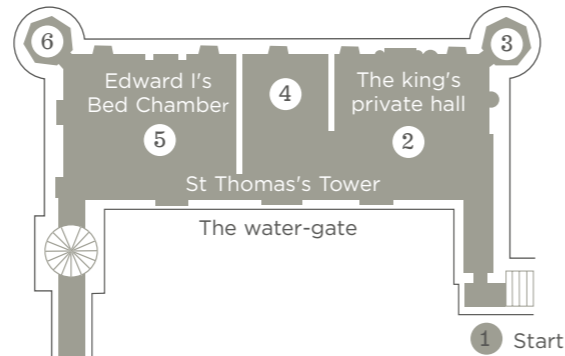


Palace secrets

There's more to the Tower than murder and mayhem. Discover the Medieval Palace within its walls.

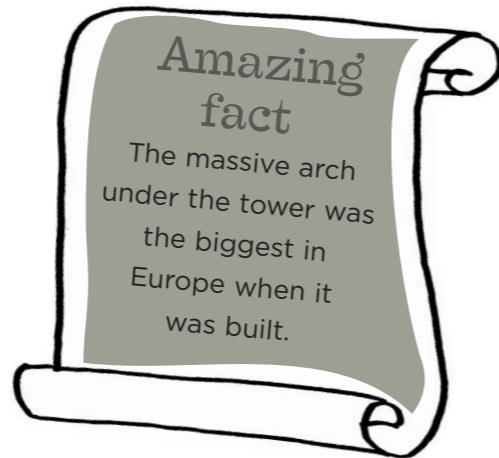


Started by Henry III (1216-1272) and enlarged by his son Edward I (1272-1307), the Medieval Palace was built for comfort and security. This is where the royal family stayed when they visited the Tower of London. With all this luxury on offer, who can blame them?



At the gate

Let's start our trail just outside the Medieval Palace, at the bottom of St Thomas's Tower. Look out for the water-gate. It was built by Edward I so that he could sail his royal barge right up to the Medieval Palace from the River Thames. In later years, this was where prisoners were brought to the Tower of London to await their fate and it became known as 'Traitors' Gate'.



Postman's knock

As you entered St Thomas's Tower, did you notice the letterbox in the door? It reminds us that people actually lived in the Medieval Palace until very recently. In fact, St Thomas's Tower was home to the Deputy Governor until 1989.

Fit for a king

The first room we come to inside St Thomas's Tower is the king's private hall, where the monarch would meet his courtiers and subjects. Have a look for signs of the hall's modern comforts, such as its massive fireplace and the king's toilet - or garderobe. Where do you think the garderobe emptied into?

Safe and secure

Look for the Victorian safe in this room. Until 1988, the key to something very precious was kept here. Can you guess what that was?



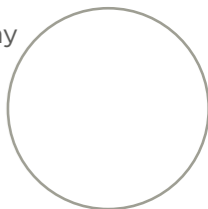
Perfectly formed

A small, six-sided room stands just off the hall. No-one knows what this room was for. If this was your palace, what would you use it for? The room is an unusual shape. Can you draw a plan of it here?

This shape is called a:

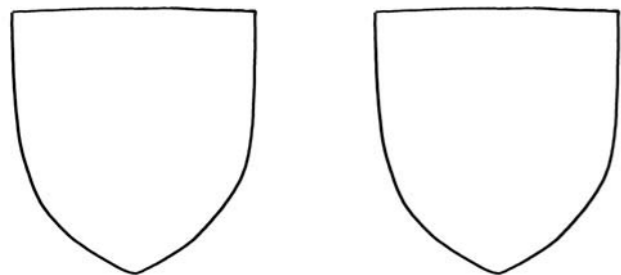
Penny for your thoughts?

Between the king's private hall and Edward I's bedchamber, the Traitors' Gate portcullis would have been raised and lowered. Can you think of anywhere you might find a picture of a portcullis? Clue: if you have any coins in your pocket, have a look at them. If you have found the answer to this question, make a rubbing of it here.



Time for bed

The next room is Edward I's bedchamber where the King would sleep and pray. He also held meetings from his bed. This comfortable, colourful room was lavishly decorated to show off Edward's power and wealth. The King was so rich he could afford expensive coloured candles. He literally had money to burn! Look around, there are coats of arms everywhere in this room. How many different coats of arms can you spot? Draw two of them here.



Three lions on a wall

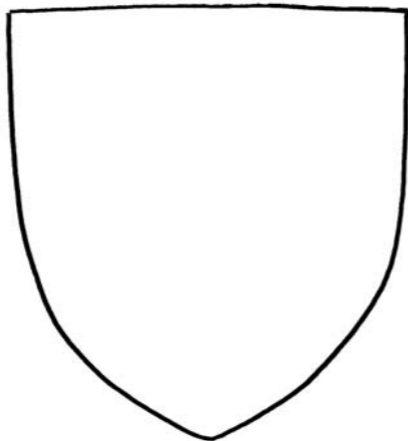
Can you spot these three lions? Where would you find a coat of arms like this today?



Shield yourself!

Coats of arms were rather like your school badge or football team crest. They were used to represent a person or a group of people using symbols rather than words. One of the places they appeared was on shields - this was so that people could recognise their owners - including the king - even when their faces were covered by helmets during battle.

Design your own coat of arms, using symbols that represent you or your family. They could include your pet or something to do with your surname.



On the move again

Everything in the bedchamber, including the bed, could be packed up and moved on as the king and his court travelled from palace to palace. Edward was a very busy king. During his 35 year reign, he only stayed at the Tower for 53 days!

Let us pray

Edward I had his own private chapel, or oratory, in his chamber. This was the only place where he could be truly alone. Look carefully and you will notice small bowls hollowed out of the window sills. What do you think the bowl on the right was used for?

- holding flowers
- holy water
- washing the items used during Mass

Quick exit

The spiral staircase that leads past Edward's bedchamber goes all the way down to the river below St Thomas's Tower. This is where the royal family's barge would be moored. Look out for the long, thin windows in the walls along the trail. What do you think they were used for?

- flying flags
- shooting arrows
- pouring hot oil



Sanctuary in the storm



From St Thomas's Tower, our trail takes us over a bridge to the Wakefield Tower. Henry III spent 20 years fortifying this tower, which housed his private chamber. The chamber was designed as somewhere Henry and his family could chill out, but it ended up becoming

the place where Henry took refuge while his barons rebelled against him. You can sit on a chair that looks like one Henry III might have had. If you have a camera with you, ask someone to take a picture to remind you of your visit.

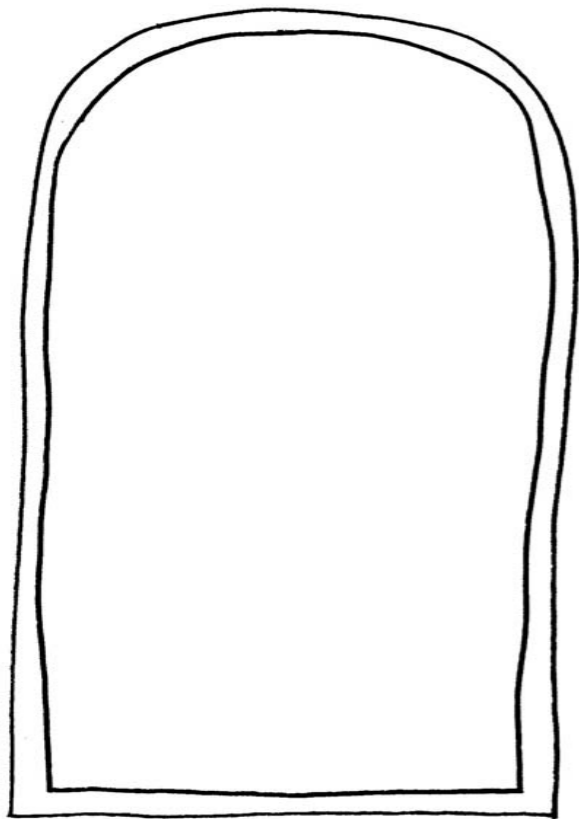
Strong room

This room was so secure that for over 100 years, right up until the 1960s, the Crown Jewels were kept here.



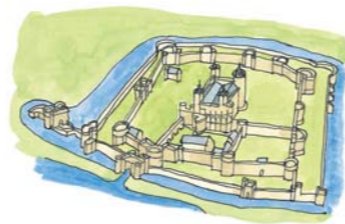
Waste not, want not

Look for the king's chapel. The stained glass here is a recent addition. It was installed in 1992. Look carefully and you can see it is like a crazy patchwork. The glass was recycled from London churches damaged during World War II. Look at how the stained glass is made up, and design your own window here. It could include your coat of arms. You can add some colour when you get home.



The heart of palace life

Our trail now takes us along the Wall Walk. Look down. The area below us was originally known as the Inmost Ward - the heart of palace life. Every building here was devoted to serving the king and queen. This is where you would find the butcher, the baker *and* the candlestick maker!



Raven mad

You can see the famous ravens from the Wall Walk. No-one really knows when or why they arrived at the Tower of London. An ancient legend warns that if the birds leave, the Tower and the kingdom will fall, so ravens have been kept here ever since. They are well looked after by one of the Yeoman Warders, the Ravenmaster. How many ravens can you see? Do you think they have names? What's a good name for a raven?



Just call me...

A right royal view

The Wall Walk is a great place to view some of London's most modern buildings, but what do you think this view looked like in Edward's day? List some of the things he might have seen - then list some of the things he definitely would not have seen!

Edward would have seen:

Edward would not have seen:

Minting it!

Have a look at the medieval coins on display. They were made here in the Tower of London's Royal Mint. A penny in Edward I's day would be worth about £40 today. The average person earned around two pence a day, or £2 per year. The king got about £20,000 a year! That's a huge difference. Why do you think the king was so rich?



- he won the lottery
- he made money from the land that he owned
- he had a good accountant

Play time

There are some medieval toys and games on display here. Can you find them? The toys were strictly for the boys. They had castles, catapults and carts to play with. Girls were not given toys. Instead, they had jewels and fine clothes to dress up in. Do you think that was fair? Would you rather have been a girl or a boy in Medieval times?

I would rather have been a _____ because:

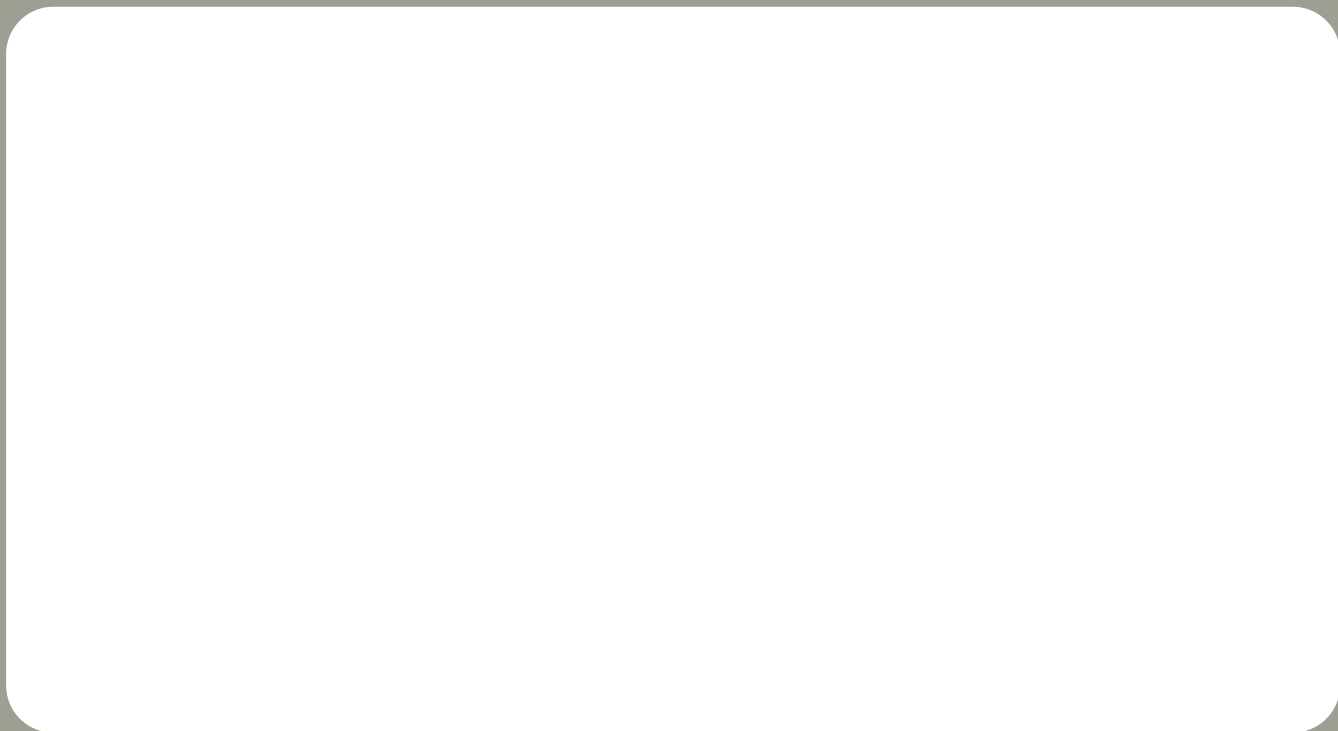


Luxury living

From the Wall Walk, we enter the Lanthorn Tower, where the queen and her courtiers lived in comfort, style and grace. Here you can see some of the objects they may have used, and smell the exotic spices that perfumed the air.

Built for beauty

The Medieval Palace was the perfect place for Henry III and Edward I to show off their wealth and power. The palace's royal residents would have enjoyed the very best medieval England had to offer. Rich colours, ornate furniture, bold patterned cloth, glowing stained glass and warm, decorated fireplaces. Imagine you're a monarch who is keen to impress your subjects. Design your own medieval palace and make sure it's even more splendid than the palace Henry and Edward created.



Once you have finished the trail, please visit the Welcome Centre to collect your free badge.

Illustrations by Tim Archbold
For more information visit www.hrp.org.uk

Answers

- P2. The garderobe emptied into the River Thames. The safe contained the keys to the Crown Jewels. The mystery room is shaped like a hexagon. Look on a one penny piece for a portcullis.
- P3. Three lions are found on the England football shirts.
- P4. The bowl held water to wash the chalice and other items used during Mass. The narrow windows were used to shoot arrows.
- P7. The King's income came from the estates and farms he owned.