

Wall Walk

Go out of the Wakefield Tower and walk along the top of the wall.



Look for:

The **outer wall** (between this one and the River Thames)
The **White Tower**



Think about:

Why do you think William the Conqueror built the White Tower? What makes it strong? What makes it difficult to attack? What makes it look impressive? What does it show about the king's power?

Later kings extended the castle and completed two circuits of walls around it called curtain walls. Why did they do this? Why do you think that towers were built along the walls?

Can you see anything else that gives us a clue about how the White Tower was defended?



Imagine:

You are one of the king's knights, guarding the castle. You are dressed in a suit of mail (armour made out of linked metal rings). The castle is being attacked. Archers are firing through narrow slits in both the walls. Imagine the sound of the arrows whizzing past your head. Take cover!

Walk to the end of the wall and go through the Lanthorn Tower. Walk down the steps on the other side.



The King's Castle Trail

William the Conqueror began to build the Tower of London over 900 years ago. He intended the stone fortress to be invincible and a symbol of his power. Over the next 400 years, up until the Tudors came to the throne, the Tower was updated and expanded by the medieval kings.



This trail gives suggestions of things to look for, things to think about and things to imagine. The things to think about are intended to be prompts for discussion – there are not necessarily any right or wrong answers.

If you want any more information, the Yeoman Warders and the warders in the towers will be pleased to help you. The more you can encourage your students to imagine, the more the Tower of London will come to life.

Make your way from the Middle Drawbridge along Water Lane to Traitor's Gate, where the trail begins.

St. Thomas's Tower

Start by going up the steps to the right of Traitor's Gate and into St. Thomas's Tower. Go up the step and through to the second room.



Look for:

Three gold lions, gold crowns and red flowers

A four poster bed, a coffer (chest) and a folding stool

A tiny private chapel



Think about:

In Henry VIII's time, important officials stayed in this room. Who stayed here in the centuries before the Tudors?

How was this room heated? Why do you think the bed has curtains around it? What else in the room would keep the king warm and comfortable? Do you think these would be cheap or expensive items? What do they show about the king?

The three gold lions on a red shield were the badge of the kings of England in the past. Who uses three lions as a badge today? (Clue: some of you might support this team!)



Imagine:

Imagine the king praying in his private chapel before he goes to bed. He is wearing a thick velvet dressing gown lined with fur. Candles are lit on the little altar (holy table) and there is a sweet smell of burning incense.

Wakefield Tower

Turn left under the arch and go through into the Wakefield Tower.



Look for:

A high arched ceiling

Stained glass windows

A painted throne



Think about:

Do the ceiling and windows in this room remind you of another type of building? (Clue: Christians worship in them.)

What might the king have done in this room? Why do you think he wanted it to look similar to the inside of a church?

Kings in the past owned lots of castles and palaces and moved from one to another throughout the year. They needed furniture that was easy to take apart and to move. Who do you think moved with them? (Clue: think about their families, the people who defended them and the people who worked for them.)



Imagine:

You are a very important nobleman or woman. Imagine that you have been granted a private meeting with the king in this room. Practise bowing or curtseying to the throne.