

# Salt Tower

Walk across the front of the Medieval Palace Shop and up the steps. Climb up the stairs by the Lanthorn Tower. Go along the Wall Walk and into the Salt Tower.



## Look for:

The initials **IHS**, a **cross**, a **hand**, a **foot**

A chart with **numbers** and **symbols**



## Think about:

The chart was carved by an astrologer (someone who believes they can tell the future by studying the planets). What was his name? Why do you think he might have been imprisoned in the Tower?

The initials 'IHS' stand for 'Jesus'. Several of the carvings were made by Catholic priests, imprisoned by Elizabeth I. Why do you think Elizabeth imprisoned Catholic priests?

Can you find the name carved by a Catholic priest who was tortured in the Tower and later executed? Why do you think he carved the names of saints below his own?



## Imagine:

Most of the people imprisoned by the Tudors were not tortured or executed. Sooner or later they walked free. Imagine you are a prisoner freed from the Tower. Walk back along the walkway, down the stairs and onto the cobbles. How does it feel to be free?

Historic Royal Palaces  
Tower of London



School Resource

# Tudor and Elizabethan prisoners Trail

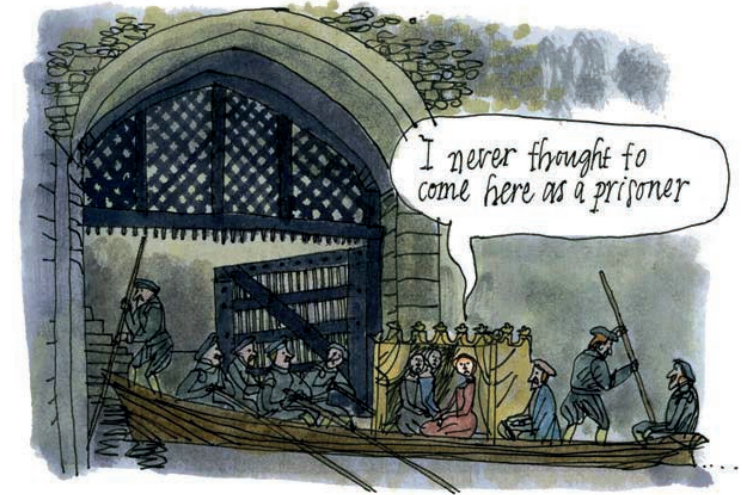
Key Stage

2

Key Stage

3

The Tower of London was built as fortress, not a prison. It does not have cells or dungeons. However, because it was so secure it was used to house important prisoners from its earliest years. In Tudor and Elizabethan times it was mainly used for very high status prisoners or those accused of political crimes.



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 or 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 up to the west side of the White Tower, where the trail begins.

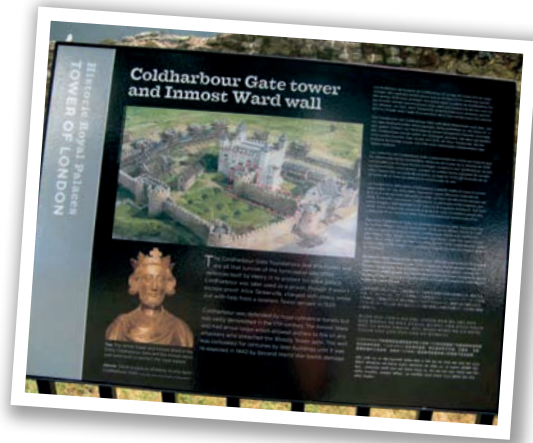
# Coldharbour Gate

Start next to the White Tower, on the side closest to Tower Green. Stand on the area with benches and look down over the railings.



## Look for:

The **foundations** of an old building



## Think about:

Can you describe the shape of the remains? What do you think the old building would have looked like?

The ruins are the foundations of an old gatehouse with two turrets called Coldharbour Gate. What material was the gatehouse made out of?

Why was stone used to build castles? Why did this also make them good to use as prisons?



## Imagine:

A woman called Alice Tankerville is said to have been imprisoned in Coldharbour Gate by Henry VIII. One of her guards helped her to escape, the only successful escape in Henry's time. If you were imprisoned in the Tower, how would you try to escape?

# The Royal Palace

Follow the exit signs from the Bloody Tower down to the walkway beside the White Tower. You may wish to take your group into the small 'Torture at the Tower' exhibition in the Lower Wakefield Tower. This will bring you out into Water Lane. If not, walk through the Bloody Tower gateway, turn left into Water Lane and then left again through the archway back towards the White Tower.



## Look for:

A deep **well** (Clue: it is against a wall, not far from the ravens' cages.)



## Think about:

What were wells used for in the past? Why was it important to have a well inside the walls of a castle?

The well used to serve the royal palace which stood near here in Tudor times. Princess Elizabeth, the future Elizabeth I, was held as a prisoner in the old palace when her half-sister, Mary, was Queen. Who was their father? Who was Mary's mother? Who was Elizabeth's mother?

Mary I was a Catholic. What religion was Elizabeth? Why do you think Mary imprisoned Elizabeth in the Tower?



## Imagine:

You are a warder at the Tower who has been given the job of guarding Princess Elizabeth. She is accused of being a traitor to the Queen and could be executed. But if Mary dies, Elizabeth will be the next queen. Why does this put you in a very difficult situation? How will you treat your prisoner?

# Raleigh's Walk

Go out of the Bloody Tower and along Raleigh's Walk to the wider space at the end. (Please note: this is a very small area so larger groups should gather at the bottom of the steps, near Tower Green.)



## Look for:

The **River Thames**

The outer **wall** of the Tower (Clue: you may need to stand on tiptoes!)

The **wharf** (landing stage beside the Thames)



## Think about:

What would have been between the outer wall and the wharf in Tudor times? (Clue: it was filled with water.) What else would have been different to today?

Sir Walter Raleigh was allowed to exercise along here. How many steps do you think he could take from one end to the other? How many metres long do you think it is?

Some prisoners were called 'close prisoners' and not allowed outside at all. Why do you think Raleigh was allowed more freedom and comfort?



## Imagine:

Raleigh pacing up and down this walk. He would have seen sailing ships unloading goods onto the wharf. Imagine old London Bridge with shops and houses built along the top and narrow arches underneath. Perhaps Raleigh saw the flames from Shakespeare's Globe Theatre when it burnt to the ground in 1613.

# Beauchamp Tower

Walk across Tower Green to the Beauchamp Tower (pronounced 'Beecham'). Go up the spiral staircase to the first floor.



## Look for:

A **fireplace**

A **lion**, a **bear**, a **bell**, a **cross**, a **tree** and a **skeleton**

What **other pictures** can you see?



## Think about:

Who do you think carved the pictures and names in the walls? What do you think they used to carve with? What do we call this kind of carving? (Clue: today people might use spray cans instead!)

Can you read the names of any of the prisoners? Why do you think they might have been imprisoned here?

The Beauchamp Tower was not built as a prison but prisoners were kept here by Henry VIII and his children, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I. Why do you think the Tudor kings and queens thought it made a very good prison?



## Imagine:

Prisoners kept in the Beauchamp Tower would have had more comforts than some of the other prisoners, including a fire. What do you think it would have been like at night, though? Imagine looking through the window on a clear, dark night. Can you see anything on Tower Green? What can you hear?

# Bloody Tower

Go out of the Beauchamp Tower and around Tower Green, into the ground floor of the Bloody Tower.



## Look for:

A **portcullis** (a gate that can be raised or lowered)

**Andirons** (used to hold logs in a fireplace)

A **candlestick**, a **quill pen**, a **wine jug** with a man's face on and blue and white **medicine jars**



## Think about:

Do you know the name of the famous Elizabethan explorer and poet who was held here? (Clue: his portrait is on the wall.)

After Elizabeth I died, Sir Walter Raleigh was accused of plotting against James I, the Stuart king who succeeded her. Raleigh was imprisoned here from 1603 until 1616. How many years is that?

What clues tell you that Raleigh's life as a prisoner was quite comfortable? What did he eat and drink? Who do you think cooked his food for him? Who might have visited him?



## Imagine:

Walter Raleigh was one of the people who made pipe smoking popular when tobacco was first brought from America in late Tudor times. He was even allowed to grow tobacco in the Tower garden during his imprisonment! Imagine him sitting in the wooden chair at the desk smoking his pipe. Perhaps he dips his quill in an inkpot and starts to write a letter or a poem.

# Bloody Tower

Go up the spiral staircase and into the first floor room. (Please note: these steps are very narrow and steep.)



## Look for:

A portrait of Henry VIII's father, **Henry VII**

A portrait of **Richard III**, who Henry VII defeated at the Battle of Bosworth

A picture of **two boys** asleep



## Think about:

This tower used to be called the Garden Tower. In Tudor times it became known as the Bloody Tower. Can you think why? (Clue: what is about to happen to the two boys in the painting?) Who were the two boys?

In Tudor times many people believed that the princes were murdered on the orders of their uncle, Richard III. Some people thought that they might have escaped. During the reign of Henry VII a young man called Perkin Warbeck was imprisoned in the Tower for pretending to be one of the princes. What do you think could have happened to them?



## Imagine:

The two princes in their bed at the Tower. Do you think they slept soundly or kept waking up? What might have scared them? How do you think they comforted each other?