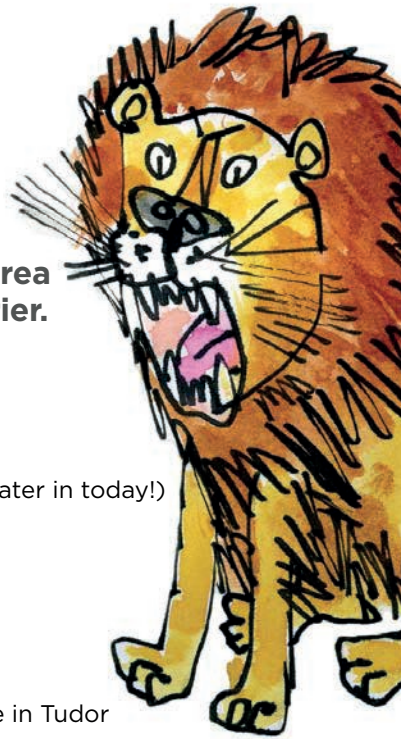


# Lion Tower

Walk through the Byward Tower gateway and towards the Middle Tower entrance. Stand by the iron railings on your right and look at the area ahead of you, in front of the glass barrier.



## Look for:

The **moat** (Clue: it doesn't have any water in today!)  
The **remains of a stone structure**



## Think about:

How would people using this entrance in Tudor times have crossed over the moat?

The stone structure is the remains of a deep pit. You will be able to see it more clearly when you leave the Tower. What happened when one end of the drawbridge was lifted up? (Clue: look at the pit and think of a seesaw.)

The drawbridge led to a D-shaped building on an island in the moat. By Tudor times this was called Lion Tower. How do you think it got its name? (Clue: what might kings in the past have given to each other as presents?)

Henry VIII kept lions and all sorts of other exotic animals here in the Royal Menagerie (zoo). What other animals do you think he owned?



## Imagine:

Visiting the Royal Menagerie in Tudor times. Imagine the roars of the lions and the other big cats.



# The Tudor Tower Trail

Henry VIII stayed in the Royal Palace at the Tower the night before his coronation and before Anne Boleyn's coronation. He rarely, if ever, stayed here again but, like the kings of England before him, he used the Tower for lots of other purposes.



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 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. You do not need to go inside any of the buildings on this trail.

Make your way from the Middle Drawbridge up to Tower Green, where the trail begins.

# The Queen's House

Stand beside the water fountain on Tower Green. Look across at the Queen's House (the timber framed building opposite the chapel).



## Look for:

A **soldier** guarding the house

Small **panes of glass** in the windows

**Chimneys** and **chimney pots**



## Think about:

The Queen's House was rebuilt on the orders of Henry VIII for the Lieutenant, the officer in charge of the Tower of London. Today the Resident Governor of the Tower lives here. Its name changes according to whether a king or a queen is ruling the country.

What material is the frame made out of? What materials have been used for the walls and roof? Would the glass panes have been cheap or expensive?

How is this house different to poor people's homes in Tudor times? How do you think it is different to the palaces that Henry VIII lived in himself?



## Imagine:

The Lieutenant moving into the house when it was rebuilt in 1540. What do you think he liked about it? How was it more modern and comfortable than older houses? What sort of furniture do you think he had?

# Mint Street

Walk across Water Lane and look down the street opposite the Byward Postern.



## Look for:

The **name** of the street

The **casemates** (houses) where Yeoman Warders and their families live today



## Think about:

What is a mint? What precious metals were used to make coins in Tudor times? After Henry VIII closed the monasteries, what might have been melted down to make coins?

Why do you think the Royal Mint was housed at the Tower of London?



## Imagine:

The Royal Mint had workshops for melting gold and silver, for hammering metal into sheets and for making coins. Coins were made by placing a metal disc between two coinage tools and then striking them with a hammer. Imagine the noise from all the hammers echoing around the Tower and the heat of the furnaces.

# Byward Postern

Walk to the end of Water Lane, towards the main entrance. The Byward Postern is on your left, in front of the Byward Tower.



## Look for:

- A **gate**
- A high **arched ceiling**
- A **lion's head** (Clue: you need to look up!)



## Think about:

A postern is usually a side entrance to a castle that allows people to come and go without being seen by many people.

What clues are there that this postern was used by very important people?

Why do you think kings and queens preferred to use this, rather than the main entrance?



## Imagine:

Anne Boleyn may have entered the Tower by this postern on the night before her coronation. She was not very popular with ordinary Londoners. What do you think the Thames boatmen who saw her thought? Do you think they cheered or raised their caps?

If you want to see the Byward Postern from the outside at the end of your visit, leave by the group entrance and turn right. The postern is a short walk along the wharf, just beyond the trees.

# White Tower

Walk across to the steps next to the White Tower and find a space to stop and look at it.



## Look for:

- The thick **stone walls**
- The **windows** high up in the walls
- The **turrets** at the corners of the Tower



## Think about:

The White Tower was built about 400 years before Henry VIII was born. It was the keep, or great tower, of the castle. How would it have protected people inside? Why is it thicker at the base and why does it have turrets in the corners? (Clue: attackers might try to dig tunnels or put mines under the walls.)

Why do you think it only had one entrance, reached by a wooden staircase?

The Tudors mainly used the White Tower as a store for important royal documents and gunpowder. What made it such a good place to store important or dangerous items?



## Imagine:

Guarding Henry VIII's belongings in the Tower. March down the steps with your musket (a long heavy gun) on your shoulder.

# Traitor's Gate

Go down the steps and through the Bloody Tower gateway to Traitor's Gate. (Please note: this is a point on the Yeoman Warder tour so, if it is busy, please go on to the next part of the trail and come back later.)



## Look for:

The massive **wooden gate**  
The **rooms above** the gate



## Think about:

What form of transport would people arriving at this gate use?

What is a traitor? Why do you think this gate was used for people accused of treason rather than the main gate?

The rooms above the gate were rebuilt by Henry VIII as lodgings for important officials. How can you tell that it is a Tudor building? (Clue: remember the Queen's house.)



## Imagine:

Being accused of treason by Henry VIII. You are brought by guards in a boat along the river and through Traitor's Gate. Imagine the sound of the oars dipping in the water and the creak of the massive gates as they open. How do you feel? What are you thinking about?

# Bell Tower

Turn right and walk along Water Lane to the Bell Tower.



## Look for:

A **door** (Clue: this might be a trick question!)

**Arrow loops** (narrow slits in the wall)



## Think about:

Why do you think it is called the Bell Tower?

The Bell Tower is the second oldest building at the Tower of London. Which is the oldest? What do you think it was used for when it was first built? Why are arrow loops always very narrow?

Henry VIII used the Bell Tower as a prison for important prisoners. What made it such a good prison? Where was the entrance to it in Tudor times? (Clue: remember the first building that you looked at on this trail.)



## Imagine:

A man called Sir Thomas Wyatt was imprisoned in the Bell Tower because he was a friend of Anne Boleyn. He was made to go to the top of the tower to watch the execution of Anne's brother, and the other men accused with her, on Tower Hill. How do you imagine he felt? Why do you think Henry VIII ordered him to watch the executions?