Did you know?

Fact and fiction at the Tower of London
The Tower of London

There are many stories about the Tower of London; some of them are true and some of them aren’t.

We’re going to help you separate the fact from the fiction!

Yeoman Warders, including Moira Cameron, the Tower’s first female Yeoman Warder
Why was the Tower built?

The tower has been a:

- fortress
- prison
- military storehouse
- home to the Yeoman Warders
- place of execution
- menagerie (zoo)
- barracks
- tourist attraction
- royal palace
- place for keeping crown jewels safe
- Royal Mint
Who are the ‘Beefeaters’?

A Yeoman Warder or ‘Beefeater’

All Beefeaters must have served in the British military for at least 22 years.

Nobody knows for sure, but the story goes that many years ago, they may have received beef as part payment for their work as royal bodyguards.

They live and work at the Tower where they give guided tours and perform a ceremonial and security role.

Who is this man?

How do you become a Beefeater?

Why are Yeoman Warders called ‘Beefeaters’?

What is their role today?
Why are there ravens at the Tower?

When did the ravens arrive at the Tower? No one knows when the ravens arrived.

Why are they at the Tower? There is a legend that says that if the ravens leave the Tower, then the Tower and the kingdom will fall.

Can the ravens fly away? The ravens’ flight feathers are trimmed so they can’t fly away.
How do we know that the Tower was used as a prison?

**The evidence:**

- Execution site
- Prisoner graffiti
- Traitor’s Gate
What was it like for prisoners in the Tower?

Where were the prisoners kept?

There are no cells or dungeons at the Tower! Important prisoners were kept at the Tower because it was safe and secure.

What were prisoners rooms like?

Prisoners kept at the Tower were usually important people – they were allowed certain luxuries.

Sir Walter Raleigh's room at the Tower
What do we know about the Tower’s dark history?

The Tower is infamous as a place of torture and punishment but records show that only 48 people were tortured there in almost 1000 years.

Only ten. Most prisoners were executed on Tower Hill or at Tyburn.

How many people were tortured at the Tower?

How many people were executed at the Tower?

Who is buried in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula?

Queen Anne Boleyn, Queen Katherine Howard, Lady Jane Grey, Thomas Cromwell, Sir Thomas More, and many other important people.
Crown Jewels: did you know?

Yes! The jewels you see on display are the real Crown Jewels

The Crown Jewels are the most valuable crowns, coronation regalia and royal jewels in the world!

The Imperial crown is just over 1kg - the same weight as a bag of sugar

There are 2,868 diamonds, 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds, 269 pearls, 4 rubies in the Imperial crown!

Are the Crown Jewels real?

What are the Crown Jewels?

How heavy is the Imperial crown?

How many jewels are there in the Imperial crown?
Summary questions

What did you already know about the Tower?

What new information have you learnt?

What are you looking forward to learning more about when you visit?