# School Resource

Tower of London history

# Chronology

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| From AD50 | The walls of the Roman city of Londinium are built by the river on the site the Tower now occupies. |
| 1066 | William the Conqueror establishes the Tower to keep hostile Londoners at bay. |
| 1080s | Work on the White Tower is under way. |
| 1101 | Ranulf Flambard, the first known prisoner at the Tower, makes a daring escape. |
| 1251 | A polar bear joins the Tower menagerie. |
| 1275-79 | Edward I builds St Thomas’s Tower and the Watergate now known as Traitors’ Gate |
| 1279 | The London Mint moves inside the Tower. |
| 1360 | John II ‘the Good’ of France lives in great splendour as a prisoner. |
| 1381 | Simon of Sudbury, Archbishop of Canterbury, is dragged out of the Tower and murdered on Tower Hill during the Peasants’ Revolt. |
| 1389 | Geoffrey Chaucer, clerk of works, oversees completion of Tower Wharf. Chaucer is better known for having written The Canterbury Tales. |
| 1483 | The Princes in the Tower disappear, presumed murdered. |
| 1485 | Henry VII founds the body of Yeoman Warders or 'Beefeaters'. |
| 1533 | Anne Boleyn’s coronation procession begins from her lavish new rooms in the Tower. |
| 1536 | Anne Boleyn is beheaded by a swordsman brought especially from France. |
| 1554 | Lady Jane Grey, the ‘nine days’ queen’, is executed.  Princess Elizabeth, later Elizabeth I, is imprisoned in the Tower. |
| 1605 | Guy Fawkes is tortured at the Tower following the failed Gunpowder Plot to assassinate James I and blow up Parliament. |
| 1671 | Colonel Blood attempts to steal the Crown Jewels. |
| 1696 | Isaac Newton is appointed Warden of the Mint |
| 1780 | The last hanging takes place on Tower Hill. |
| 1812 | The Mint moves out of the Tower to a new factory on Tower Hill |
| 1826 | Duke of Wellington becomes Constable of the Tower and appoints Yeoman Warders based on their exemplary military service. |
| 1835 | Tower Menagerie closes. The animals are transferred to the new London Zoo. |
| 1841 | Crown Jewels are saved from fire. |
| 1850 | Koh-I-Noor diamond is presented to Queen Victoria. |
| 1941 | Nazi Deputy Fuhrer Rudolph Hess is held at the Tower |
| 1952 | East end London gangsters Ronnie and Reggie Kray are held at the Tower. |
| 1988 | The Tower becomes a UNESCO World Heritage site |
| 1994 | Queen Elizabeth II opens the new Jewel House in the Waterloo Block |
| 2007 | The Tower’s first female Yeoman Warder is appointed |
| 2012 | Thousands of gold, silver and bronze medals were  securely stored in the vaults for the London Olympics and Paralympics  stored |

For more information on the history of the Tower of London, please visit [our](https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/history-and-stories/#gs.9b90wg) website [here](https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/history-and-stories/).