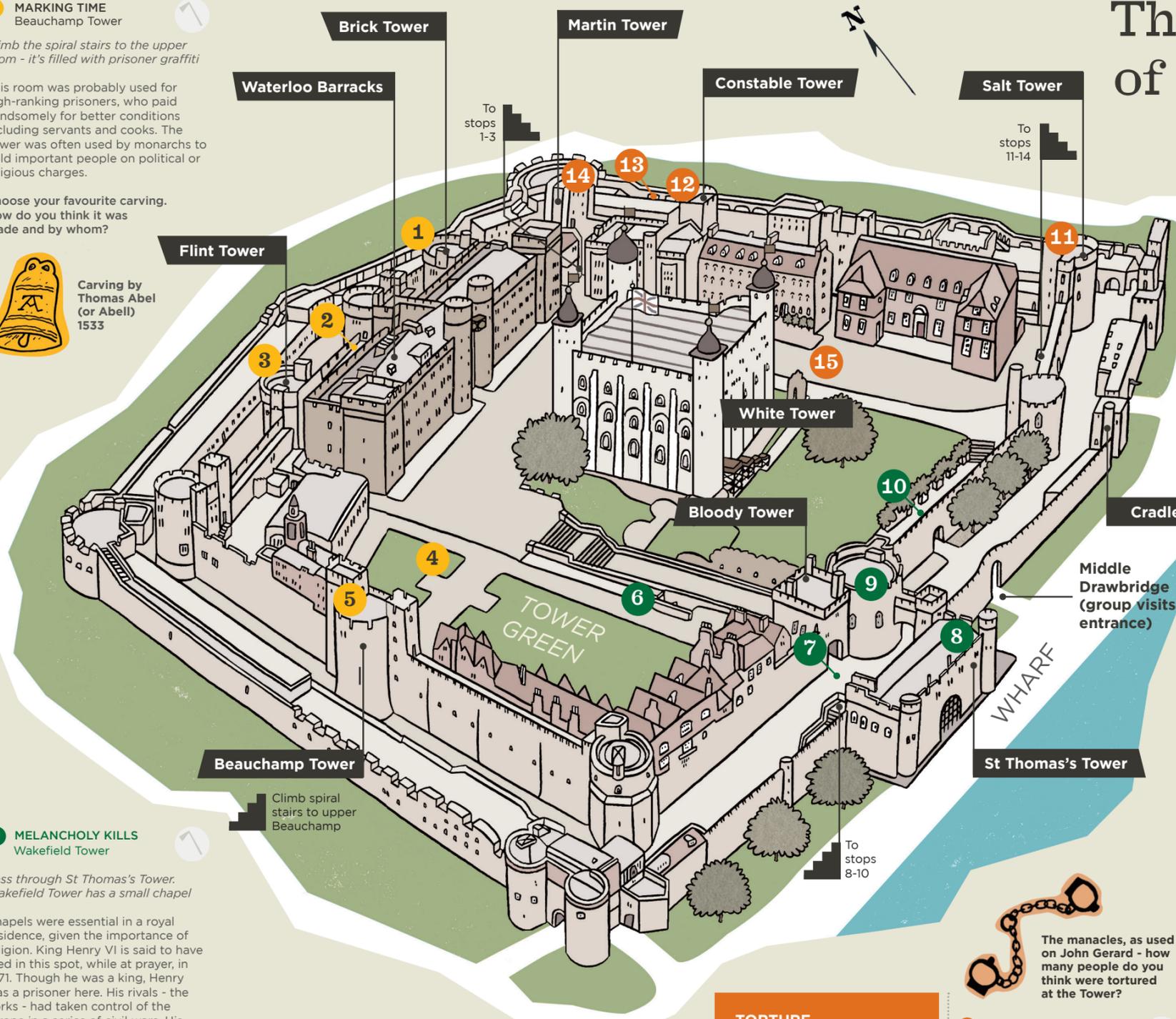


The TOWER of LONDON

PALACE PRISON FORTRESS
established c1070

THE WALKS

- **SENT TO THE TOWER**
(suggested start stop 1)
- **MONARCH MYSTERIES**
(suggested start stop 6)
- **TORTURE & REVOLT**
(suggested start stop 11)



SENT TO THE TOWER

1 LONDON'S FIRST ZOO

Brick Tower

You can explore the *Royal Beasts* exhibition here

An ostrich, an elephant, lions and snakes: all were kept at the Tower as part of the royal 'menagerie'. Monarchs acquired most of the animals as diplomatic gifts or trophies from wars and exploration.

Why do you think monarchs gave each other animals as gifts?



The King of Norway gave Henry III a 'white bear'. It swam and hunted for fish in the Thames

2 FIRE BOMB

Battlement Wall

Pass through the *Bowyer Tower*. From here, you'll see the *Waterloo Barracks*

The Waterloo Barracks was built following a major fire at the Tower. On the evening of 31 October 1841, flames engulfed the Grand Storehouse, a depot for artillery and small arms. Concern grew about the risk to the White Tower, which was the country's main gunpowder store. A potential explosion could have levelled the Tower and surrounding area. Fortunately, the fire was brought under control.

MONARCH MYSTERIES

6 A MURDER MYSTERY?

Tower Green

From here you can see both the *Bloody Tower* and *White Tower*

The Bloody Tower gets its name as the alleged location of a suspected murder. In 1483, the king died and his two young sons came to the Tower under the care of their uncle Richard. Twelve-year-old Edward expected to inherit his father's throne, but he and his nine-year-old brother were declared illegitimate. Soon after, their uncle was crowned Richard III and the potential heirs vanished from the Tower. Rumours circulated they were murdered by their uncle.

What do you think could have happened to the princes?



In 1674, the bones of two children were discovered during works on the *White Tower*

3 THE SPY

Flint Tower

Carl Hans Lody
During the First World War, the Tower became an execution site. Carl Lody was one of 11 German spies executed here. His amateurish spycraft had led to his arrest and conviction. But his integrity won him widespread admiration during his public trial. Lody was executed on 6 November 1914 on an indoor shooting range. In a final act Lody wrote to thank his guards for their 'kind and considered treatment.'



4 HEADS ROLL

Execution memorial

Look for the large, round sculpture with names engraved around the edge

Among those executed near this spot were three queens. Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard and Lady Jane Grey each lost her head inside the Tower. Occasionally, it could get messy. One witness wrote that Margaret Pole's execution in 1541 was performed by 'a wretched and blundering youth who literally hacked her head and shoulders to pieces.'



A woodman's axe, as used for beheadings

7 THE MONARCH

Traitors' Gate

Elizabeth I
Legend says when Princess Elizabeth came here as a prisoner in 1554, she arrived through this river gate (she probably didn't). She was locked up in the Tower by her half-sister Mary I (r1553-8), who suspected Elizabeth of plotting against her. After a stressful stay, lack of evidence led to her release. Her next visit to the Tower was much happier. She stayed here the night before her coronation in 1558.



8 LONGSHANKS RESTS

St Thomas's Tower

Pass through the *Medieval Palace* until you reach a bedchamber

Edward I (r1272-1307), along with his father Henry III (r1216-72), helped strengthen the Tower by adding its defensive walls. Secure inside, this warrior king also built a comfortable royal palace. This was his bedroom when he stayed. Because the king moved around so much, his bed and furnishings travelled with him. Unusually tall for his time, 'Longshanks' had a bed specially made for his 6'2" frame.

5 MARKING TIME

Beauchamp Tower

Climb the spiral stairs to the upper room - it's filled with prisoner graffiti

This room was probably used for high-ranking prisoners, who paid handsomely for better conditions including servants and cooks. The Tower was often used by monarchs to hold important people on political or religious charges.

Choose your favourite carving. How do you think it was made and by whom?



Carving by Thomas Abel (or Abell) 1533

9 MELANCHOLY KILLS

Wakefield Tower

Pass through *St Thomas's Tower*. *Wakefield Tower* has a small chapel

Chapels were essential in a royal residence, given the importance of religion. King Henry VI is said to have died in this spot, while at prayer, in 1471. Though he was a king, Henry was a prisoner here. His rivals - the Yorks - had taken control of the throne in a series of civil wars. His rivals' supporters said he died of sadness (he'd recently lost his son in battle), but it was widely suspected he was murdered on orders of the new king Edward IV.

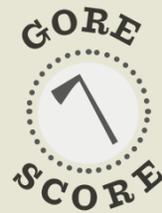
10 LUXURY LOST

Battlement Wall

Read the 'Lost Palace' info sign on the wall. Then continue to *Lantern Tower*

At one time, a grand complex of buildings extended across to the *White Tower*. This inner palace served medieval monarchs and their families, including young children. Inside *Lantern Tower* you'll find objects that give a flavour of medieval life here, a toy figure of a knight on horseback from around 1300.

DOES THE TOWER OF LONDON DESERVE ITS GORY REPUTATION?



Choose one of the three walks. Rate each stop you visit on this scale from 0-3

- 0 gore-free
- 1 potentially gory
- 2 plain gruesome
- 3 stomach-turning

TORTURE & REVOLT

11 HANGING TOUGH

Salt Tower

Discover prisoner graffiti and stories of those locked up here

John Gerard was a Jesuit priest imprisoned here in the 1590s. He was also tortured during his stay. Catholic worship was outlawed at the time and the authorities were trying to persuade Gerard to reveal his conspirators (he didn't). Gerard, who later escaped, recalled being left to hang, wrists bound in manacles.

Visit the *Cradle Tower* for the full story of Gerard's daring escape

12 THE REBEL

Constable Tower

Johanna Ferrour
In 1381 an army of protesters marched on London. They were angry about the hated poll tax. Ferrour led a group that successfully stormed the Tower. Once inside, they arrested the Lord Chancellor and dragged him to *Tower Hill*. Ferrour had him beheaded. Court records described her as 'chief perpetrator and leader of rebellious evildoers'. Despite this, there is no evidence she was ever convicted.



The manacles, as used on John Gerard - how many people do you think were tortured at the Tower?

13 A SOLDIER'S HOME

Battlement Wall

Soldiers stationed here live in cottages built into the outer wall

Yeoman Warders have been guarding the Tower for over 500 years. Today, all warders have a distinguished record of military service and live within the Tower with their families. In addition to providing security, their duties include giving visitor tours.

14 HEIST!

Martin Tower

You'll find replicas of the massive *Cullinan diamond* here

Today the priceless Crown Jewels are stored behind bulletproof glass in the *Waterloo Barracks*. But in the late 1660s, they were kept here - in a locked cabinet. The public could even handle them for a small fee. This ended in 1671, however, after thieves plotted to overpower the jewel keeper and nearly got away. The alarm was raised and the jewels recovered, as the shadowy Colonel Blood and his band were captured on the wharf. Amazingly, after a private meeting with Charles II, Blood was pardoned.

15 RACK AND RUIN

White Tower

It's said the *White Tower's* basement was a site of torture and interrogation

Anne Askew is the only recorded instance of a woman being tortured at the Tower. In 1546, the authorities tried to uncover the names of Askew's fellow Protestants. They stretched her on the rack - the Tower's principal torture instrument. As a result, her shoulders and hips were pulled from their sockets and elbows and knees dislocated. She never talked and was later burnt at the stake at *Smithfield*.

HOW GORY A STORY?

PALACE

FORTRESS

PRISON

1090s | White Tower is completed; England's first ever castle keep made of stone

1100 | The Tower's first prisoner is government minister and Bishop Ranulf Flambard, charged with stealing from Henry I (r1100-35) *

1066 | William the Conqueror invades England and becomes king (r1066-87). He establishes the Tower to keep hostile Londoners at bay

1162 | Henry II (r1154-89) appoints Thomas Becket as Constable of the Tower. Becket goes on to become Archbishop and is later made a saint

First: 1100 - Ranulf Flambard (see timeline)

Last: 1952 - Gangsters Reggie and Ronnie Kray, for not reporting for national service

'High-value' prisoners - Used for alleged threats to national security and the monarchy

Escapes * - One historian estimates 37 successful escapes from the Tower, or 4 per cent century

Torture - 48 known cases of physical torture. Other forms, such as solitary confinement, were more common

20th century POWs - 12 prisoners of war were executed here during the First and Second World Wars

Strategic location - Built next to the River Thames and England's most populous city on the remains of a defensive city wall (first made by the Romans, AD43-410)

Defence - Henry III and Edward I made the 'Tower England's strongest' 'concentric' castle (with one ring of walls inside another)

Royal armoury - Weapons have been stored and made here for centuries

Military outpost - A garrison of soldiers has always been stationed here, even today

A royal home - Kings and queens lived in luxury here for 500 years

Safehouse - The Crown Jewels have been kept here for over 600 years

Mint - Coins were made here for centuries, helping the monarch influence the economy

Menagerie - Exotic animals were kept here from 1235 until the 1830s

Ceremony - The coronation procession began at the Tower for over 300 years

1336 | A nightly ceremony locking up the Tower is established. It continues to this day

1415 | Frenchman Charles of Orleans lives in luxury as a prisoner of war. He spends 24 years in custody

1471 | Henry VI (r1422-61; 1470-1) dies while imprisoned here. Some say he is murdered by his enemies while praying in Wakefield Tower

1478 | Imprisoned for treason, the Duke of Clarence dies here. He's allegedly drowned in a barrel of wine

1509 | The body of Yeoman Warders, or 'Beefeaters' is founded

1554 | Queen Mary I (r1553-58) imprisons Princess Elizabeth (later Elizabeth I)

1590s | Jesuit priest John Gerard is imprisoned for covertly practicing Catholicism *

1605 | Guy Fawkes is tortured after a failed plot to assassinate James I (r1603-25) and blow up the Houses of Parliament

1618 | After years of imprisonment, Sir Walter Raleigh is executed on Tower Hill

1649 | Following the Civil War the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell (r1649-58) is named melts down the Crown Jewels

1671 | Colonel Blood attempts to steal the new Crown Jewels. He's foiled, but is pardoned by Charles II (r1660-85)

1727 | In a period of decline, the fortress has just 22 guns fit to fire during the royal coronation of George II (r1727-60)

1798 | Two Mint workers steal 19kg of coins. One is caught while trying to escape to France

1850 | The Koh-i-nur diamond is presented to Queen Victoria following the annexation of Punjab

1914-18 | Eleven prisoners of war are executed by firing squad, many in the Tower's indoor shooting range

1913 | Suffragette Leonora Cohen smashes the Crown Jewels display. Her arrest gains wide media attention

1913 | Aioi is appointed, the first female Yeoman Warder

2014 | First World War centenary is marked by an art installation flooding the moat with ceramic poppies

2014 | First guidebook aimed at children is published

2017 | Moat used to grow vegetables during Second World War

2007 | Moira Cameron is appointed, the first female Yeoman Warder

1326 | Edward II (r1307-27) takes refuge from his enemies here. Angry mobs attack the Tower. Edward flees, but is probably murdered

1279 | Edward I moves coin-making at the London mint inside the Tower's walls

1204 | Crossbow manufacture at the Tower can be traced back to this date

1235 | Henry III (r1216-72) is given three leopards as a gift by Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II

1255 | French king sends an elephant to join the menagerie. Londoners flock to 'see the novel sight'

1275-9 | Edward I (r1272-1307) builds watergate and St Thomas's Tower

1533 | Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII (r1509-47), arrives for her coronation procession

1548 | Large stocks of gunpowder are stored here, not without risk. An accidental explosion damages the building and kills a prisoner

1381 | 400 rebels march on London and run through open gates during the Peasants' Revolt, breaching the Tower's defences

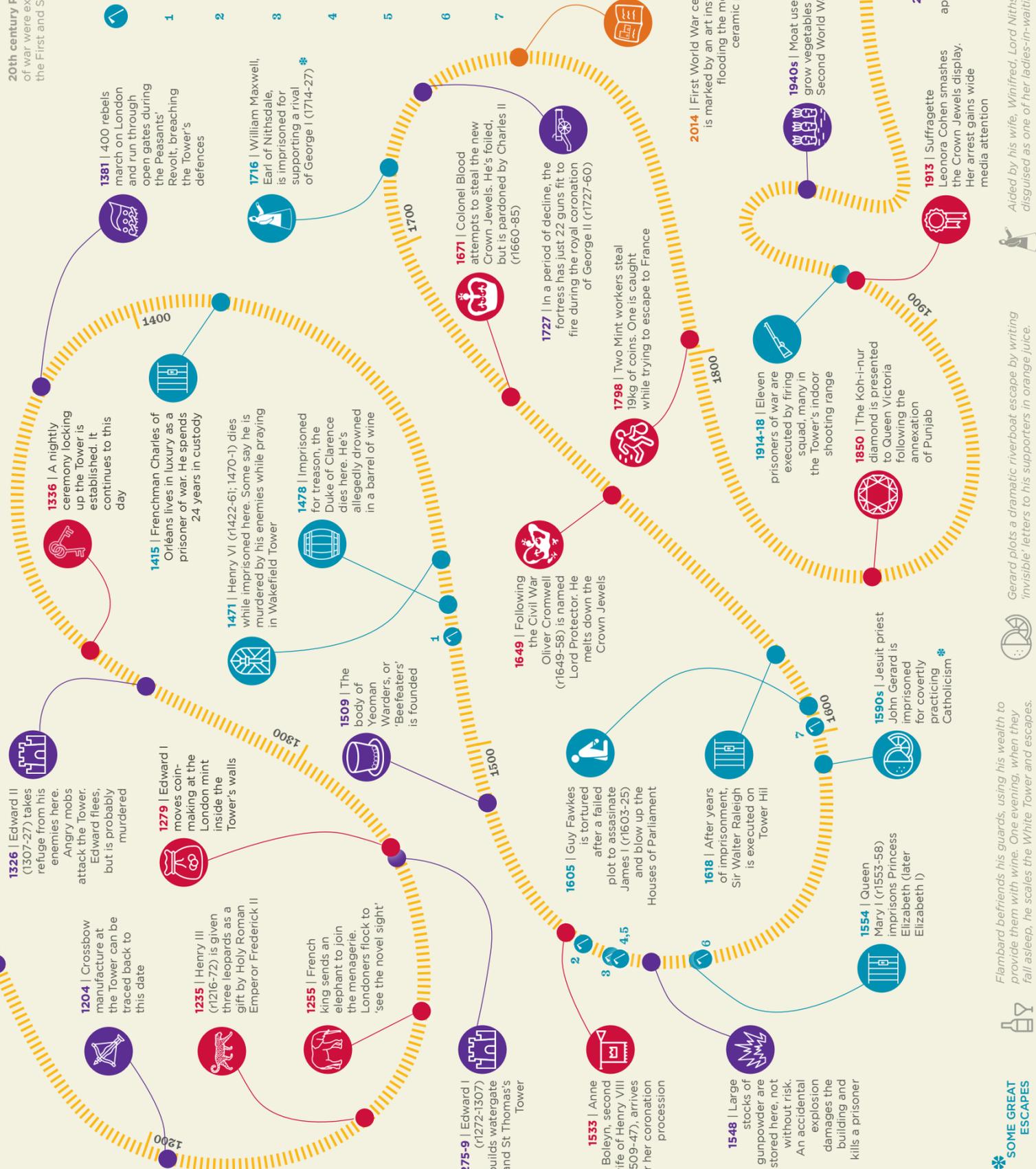
1716 | William Maxwell, Earl of Nithsdale, is imprisoned for supporting a rival of George I (r1714-27) *

1741 | First guidebook aimed at children is published

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- BEHEADINGS**
(on or near Tower Green)
- 1483** William Hastings executed without trial
 - 1536** Anne Boleyn Queen of England
 - 1541** Margaret Pole Countess of Salisbury
 - 1542** Catherine Howard Queen of England
 - 1542** Jane Boleyn Viscountess Rochford
 - 1554** Lady Jane Grey Queen of England
 - 1601** Robert Devereaux Earl of Essex



SOME GREAT ESCAPES

Flambard befriends his guards, using his wealth to provide them with wine. One evening, when they fall asleep, he scales the White Tower and escapes.

Gerard plots a dramatic riverboat escape by writing 'invisible' letters to his supporters in orange juice.

Aided by his wife, Winifred, Lord Nithsdale escapes disguised as one of her ladies-in-waiting.

The Tower of London

How gory a story?

trail map & timeline

DOES THE TOWER OF LONDON DESERVE ITS GORY REPUTATION?

See if you agree (or disagree) that this ancient castle deserves its reputation as a fearsome site of torture and execution.

BEFORE YOU START: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Why do you think that?

YES NO MAYBE

IN THE TOWER: GIVE EACH STOP A GORE SCORE

Follow one of the three walks around the Tower. Rate the 'gorness' of each stop you visit.

0 gore-free
1 potentially gory
2 plain gruesome
3 stomach-turning

SCORE

BEFORE YOU LEAVE: THINK AGAIN!

Does the Tower of London deserve its gory reputation?

YES NO MAYBE

Has your view changed? If so, why?

Historic Royal Palaces