



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

TOWER OF LONDON

# FORTRESS TRAIL



**KS1 & KS2**  
**SELF-DIRECTED VISITS**

**SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED**

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE  
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

## TOWER MINT

FIND YOUR WAY TO MINT STREET, NEAR THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE TOWER



Enter the Tower Mint exhibition and have a go at using the coin press.



Close your eyes and imagine working in the Mint in Tudor times. It would have been hot, smelly and very noisy. Even a small mistake could cost you your fingers!

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5

The Mint was based at the Tower from 1279 – 1812. For 500 years, every coin in the kingdom was made here! This is because it was the safest place to store the country's money.

## JEWEL HOUSE



Hunt down the crown jewels! These are priceless treasures that belong to the royal family. They are looked after by a team of Wardens and guarded by real soldiers.

For hundreds of years, important royal items have been kept safe at the Tower.



If you could wear one thing in this room, which item would you choose?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



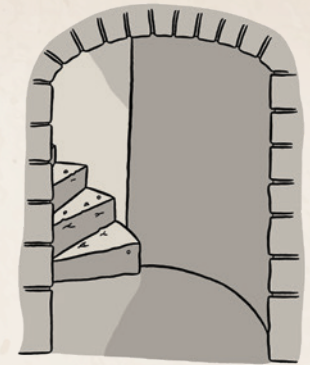
## THE WHITE TOWER - OUTSIDE

HEAD TOWARDS THE WHITE TOWER FROM THE MIDDLE DRAWBRIDGE



Look up at the White Tower through the archway on Water Lane. What do you notice about its size, shape and colour?

Did you know that the White Tower was originally called the Great Keep? It wasn't called the White Tower until it was whitewashed 140 years after it was built.



Look for a round turret. Why is one of the turrets this shape? What could be inside it?

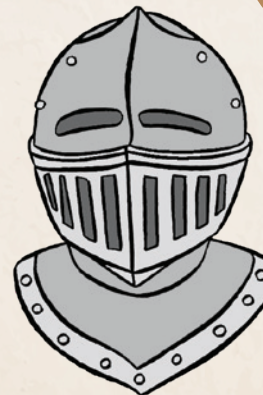


Imagine you have arrived at the Tower by boat. How do you feel looking up at the castle for the first time?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5

This curved turret contains a spiral staircase. These are excellent security features! They make it difficult for attackers to get up to the floors above.



Imagine trying to climb a spiral staircase whilst fighting a guard coming down. What could they do to stop you coming up?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



# THE WHITE TOWER - INSIDE



Look for the suits of armour made for Henry VIII and his son, Edward VI. What do you notice about them?

During a joust, knights would dress themselves and their horses in armour for protection and wear colours and symbols that represented their family.



Imagine you are a Tudor knight dressing for a joust. What colours and symbols would you choose to wear?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5

## DEFENSIVE FEATURES



### HEAD TO THE ARCHWAY OPPOSITE TRAITOR'S GATE



Can you spot any evidence of the Tower's role as a fortress from here?

As a fortress, the Tower has lots of defensive features. Arrow slits allowed archers to shoot arrows out through a small gap whilst keeping them safe inside.



Can you think of anything you might need to take with you into the White Tower if the castle was under attack?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5

## BATTLEMENTS



Look down at the wall you are standing on and across to the wall that leads out onto the wharf. Why do you think there are two walls between the White Tower and the river?



Imagine that you are one of the king's knights. What could you do to defend the Tower against attackers?

Talk through your ideas with a partner.

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

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When the White Tower was built, there was only one wall around the building. As the years went by, kings and queens added more walls and towers to the site, until it became the complex of buildings you see today.







Look at all of the buildings outside the Tower walls. Can you spot any that are taller than the White Tower? Which building do you think is the most impressive today?

Hundreds of years before tall office buildings appeared in the City of London, only St Paul's Cathedral to the west would have been taller than the White Tower.

### WALK THROUGH THE UPPER SALT TOWER AND ALONG TO THE BROAD ARROW TOWER AND CONSTABLE TOWER



Can you find any information about the one time in history that the Tower was invaded?

Despite being England's largest and strongest concentric castle (inside two rows of walls), the Tower was successfully invaded in 1381 during what became known as the Peasant's Revolt.



Pretend that you are an Anglo Saxon who has seen the White Tower for the first time. What words would you use to describe it?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



Imagine that you are one of the people who invaded the Tower in 1381. How did you get inside?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



## KEEP LOOKING!

### THERE ARE CLUES TO THE TOWER'S LIFE AS A FORTRESS EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK



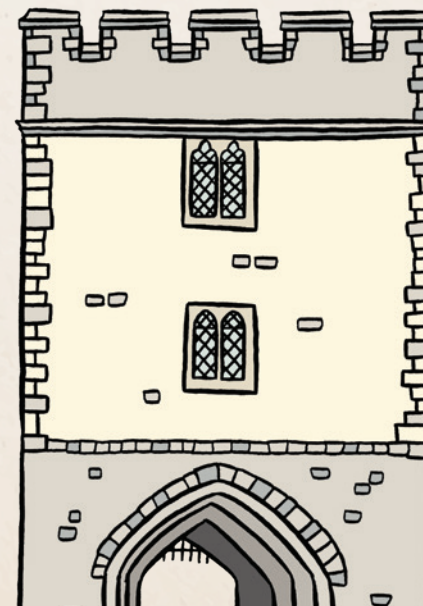
Can you find an early example of a weapon used to defend the Tower from its enemies?

**Clue:** It is in the moat and can be seen from the main entrance.

This weapon is called a trebuchet. It is a type of siege engine used to catapult stones or other missiles at attackers outside of the castle walls.

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



Can you spot any more modern weapons around the site?

**Clue:** Head along Water Lane and go through the archway towards the New Armouries cafe.

On Water Lane and to the east of the White Tower, you can find examples of the types of cannons used in the past. These remind visitors that the Tower is a fortress and a military base.

During both world wars, soldiers stayed here and had their own library, sports hall, canteen and concert hall!

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



Look for the soldiers standing guard and marching around the site.

Clue: There are two guards outside of the Jewel House, where the crown jewels are kept.



Draw an example of the evidence you found that shows us the Tower was a fortress.

Did you know that the Tower's full name is Her Majesty's Palace and Fortress the Tower of London? Many ceremonies take place here, including the 600-year-old Ceremony of Keys, when the Tower is locked up at night and unlocked in the morning.

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5

**WELL DONE FOR FINDING OUT ABOUT THE TOWER'S ROLE AS A FORTRESS!**

If you have more time, you can learn about its other two important roles as a **PRISON** and **PALACE**.