



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

TOWER OF LONDON

PALACE 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

ST THOMAS'S TOWER

HEAD TO TRAITORS GATE. CLIMB THE STAIRS AND ENTER ST THOMAS'S TOWER, PART OF THE MEDIEVAL PALACE

ENTRANCE HALL



Look for examples of the decoration of King Edward I's palace in the 1200's. What words can you use to describe its style?

Throughout history, kings and queens moved around the country, staying in their own palaces and the homes of wealthy landowners.

They didn't stay in one place for too long. The main reason for this was to allow for the palace to be cleaned and for food to be restocked.



Imagine you are looking out of the window 800 years ago. What would you have seen? How would the view be different today?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



EDWARD'S BEDCHAMBER



Look for evidence of King Edward I's objects and furniture. Do you recognise anything? Do you have anything similar in your own bedroom?

Because kings and queens moved around the country, their furniture had to be easy to transport. In this room, some furniture – including the bed, table and chair – can easily be taken apart and put back together again!



Imagine you are a member of King Edward I's family. What might you do for entertainment?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5

WAKEFIELD TOWER

MAKE YOUR WAY INTO THE NEXT ROOM



Look for a stained-glass window. Where else might you see stained glass windows? What do you think the window tells us about how the room was used?



Imagine you are meeting with the king in this room. What might you ask him? Practice your bow or curtsy.

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5

Religion was very important to people in the past, as it is for some people today. There are several chapels and small oratories in the Tower buildings that would have been used for prayer and quiet reflection.

WHITE TOWER

MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE BUILDINGS
TO THE BATTLEMENTS OUTSIDE



Can you see the small windows on the top floor of the White Tower? Those are the original 900-year-old windows! Why do you think they were so small?

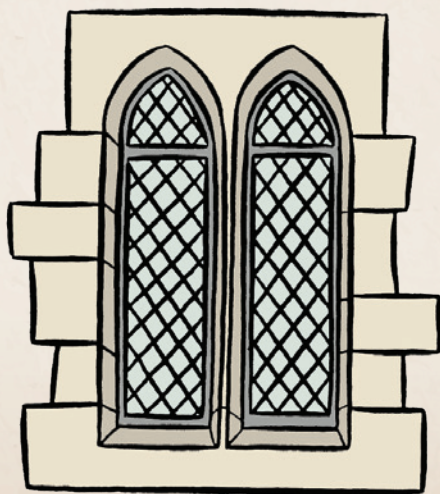


Imagine using the White Tower as a palace 900 years ago. How would you have kept yourself warm and comfortable?

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5

In 1100, windows were open and did not have glass panes in them. Small windows kept the warmth in and would have kept the Tower safer if it was under attack.



HEAD TO THE EXIT. STAND NEAR
THE RUINS OF THE WARDROBE
TOWER, AT THE FOOT OF THE
WHITE TOWER



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

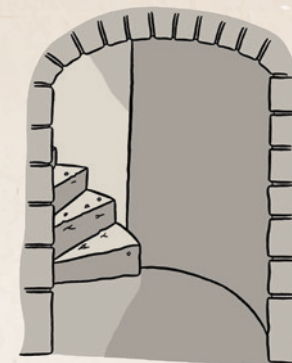
This curved turret contains a spiral staircase. These are excellent security features! They make it difficult for attackers to get up to the floors above.

WALK AROUND THE OUTSIDE OF
THE WHITE TOWER, LOOKING UP



Look for odd shaped holes in the wall of the building, just below some of the windows. What do you think these holes were for?

People living and working in the palace hundreds of years ago would have used garderobes instead of the toilets we have today. The waste would have collected in a ditch that ran around the base of the Tower.



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



Imagine it is your job to clear away the waste that falls out of these holes. It's smelly work, but someone has to do it! Ask your partner to interview you about your new role.

USEFUL EVIDENCE SCORE:

5



KEEP LOOKING!

THERE ARE CLUES TO THE TOWER'S PAST LIFE AS A PALACE EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK



Opposite the raven's cages, by the arches, there is a piece of evidence that tells us people lived here. Can you find it?

Clue: Look down!



Can you spot a ruined building called the Wardrobe Tower?

What do you think might have been kept in this building? How does it prove that the Tower was once used as a palace?

Clue: It is very close to the White Tower lawn.

There are two wells on site – one can be seen here and another is in the basement of the White Tower. If a castle was under attack, it was important that people inside it had access to fresh water.

Important items of royal clothing and jewellery would have been stored here, just like in your wardrobe at home – but on a very different scale!



Have you seen any animals on the loose? There are four different types of wire beast dotted around the Tower site. Can you find them all?

Clue: One group of animals can only be seen from outside of the Tower.



Can you find a Tudor timber framed building with a guard standing outside? This is called The Queens House.

Clue: It is opposite the chapel of St Peter Ad Vincula and Tower Green.

The Tower's full name is Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress the Tower of London. Although the queen does not use the site as a palace today, it still belongs to her and she sometimes visits.

The Tower used to be the home of not only kings and queens, but also the exotic animals that were given to them as gifts by other monarchs.

The wire sculptures around the site show some of the types of animals that were kept here as part of the 'royal menagerie'.

Tick the ones you have found:



LIONS



POLAR BEAR



ELEPHANT



BABOONS



Can you see the ruins of an old wall running alongside the White Tower?

Clue: It leads down towards the raven's cages.

In Tudor times, a row of buildings called the Royal Apartments would have stood near the arches opposite the raven shop.



Draw an example of the evidence you found that proves the Tower was a palace.

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

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