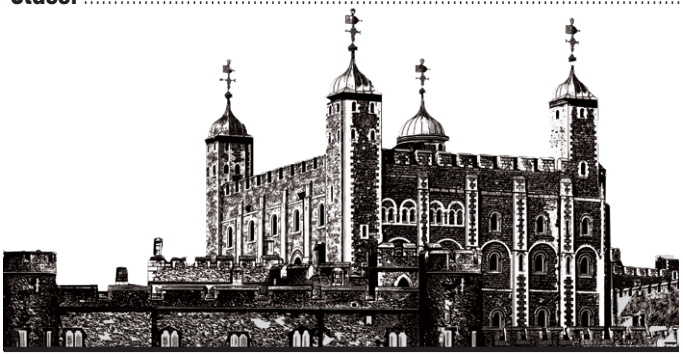
KS3 POWER, PROTEST AND THE RIVER

Years 7–9 | Ages 11–14 | Investigate how London changed

Name: ..... **Class:** .....

1. THE THAMES AND POLITICAL POWER

The tour connects the Tower of London with the Palace of Westminster. Royal processions, imprisonment and executions all used locations beside the Thames.



How did riverside buildings and ceremonies help monarchs demonstrate authority? Use TWO examples.

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2. CHALLENGES TO AUTHORITY

The script describes the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, Elizabeth I's imprisonment in the Tower in 1554 and the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. These events took place in very different circumstances.

Choose two events. Compare what was being challenged and how those in power responded.

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3. A GROWING INDUSTRIAL CITY

The script describes London's polluted river and the Great Stink of 1858. It also recounts the rebuilding of Waterloo Bridge during the Second World War, with women playing an important part.

What do these stories reveal about changing urban life and the people whose work shapes a city?

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4. TEST THE STORYTELLER

KS3

A lively tour combines historical information with humour, legend and dramatic retelling. The script includes an account of Father John Gerard escaping from the Tower using help organised through secret messages written with orange juice.

What sources would you seek to verify this escape?

How would you distinguish a documented event from dramatic detail?

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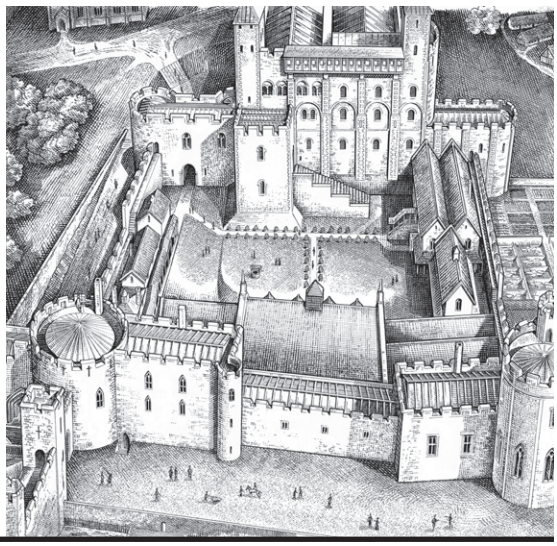

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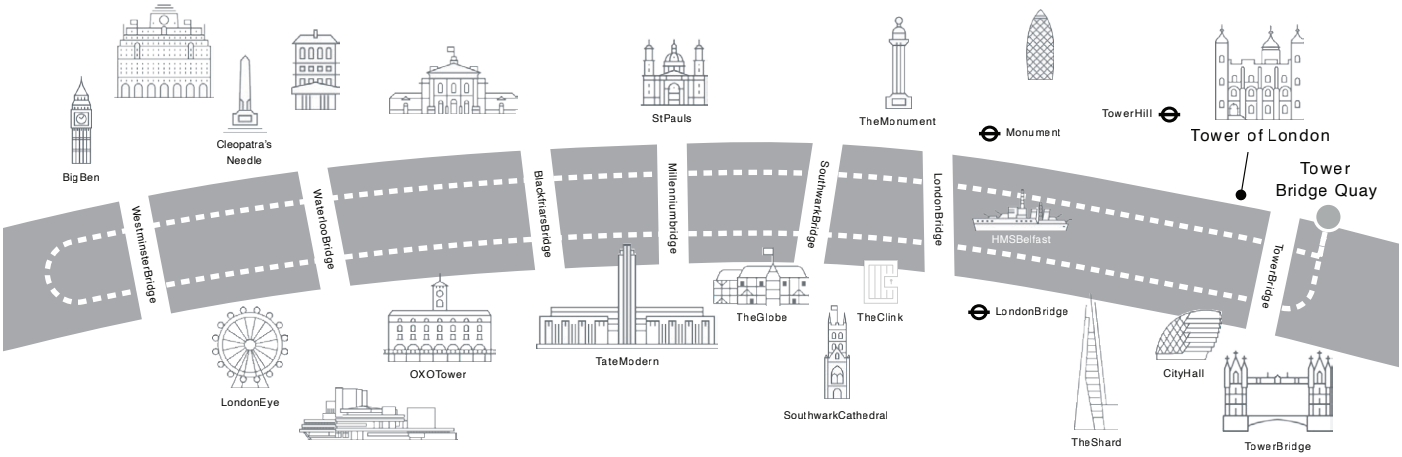
SPOT THE FAMOUS SITES



AFTER YOUR VISIT

Write a short argument: "The Thames was as important to London's political history as its economic history."

Use at least three examples from the tour and identify one piece of evidence you would need to investigate further.

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Teacher note: KS3 history: medieval state and society, Tudors, protest, industrial/urban change, chronological analysis and source evaluation. Activities complement, but do not replace, prescribed depth studies.

Stories and locations adapted from the Tower of London River Tour live script. Historical claims and legends should be explored critically; this sheet is not a transcript.