KS4 **HISTORY ON TRIAL**

Years 10–11 | Ages 14–16 | Evaluate evidence, significance and interpretation

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

ENQUIRY A | WHAT MADE THE TOWER A SYMBOL OF POWER?

The tour portrays the Tower as a fortress, palace, prison, mint and royal menagerie. It connects Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth I and Guy Fawkes with the Tower and the Thames.

Assess which of the Tower's functions most effectively communicated royal authority. Support your judgement with examples and explain what additional evidence is required.

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ENQUIRY B | HOW FAR DID CRISES TRANSFORM LONDON?

The script links the Great Fire of 1666 with rebuilding and the Great Stink of 1858 with pressure for sewer reform. Both stories present a crisis followed by change.

Compare the causes, immediate effects and longer-term responses to these crises. Was change inevitable?

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ENQUIRY C | WHO GETS REMEMBERED?

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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ENQUIRY D | CAN A TOUR SCRIPT BE HISTORICAL EVIDENCE?

KS4

A tour script is designed to engage visitors, not to provide a footnoted academic account. Its dramatic stories and legends can still generate excellent historical questions.

Evaluate the usefulness and limitations of this script for investigating Tudor imprisonment. Consider provenance, purpose, content and corroboration.

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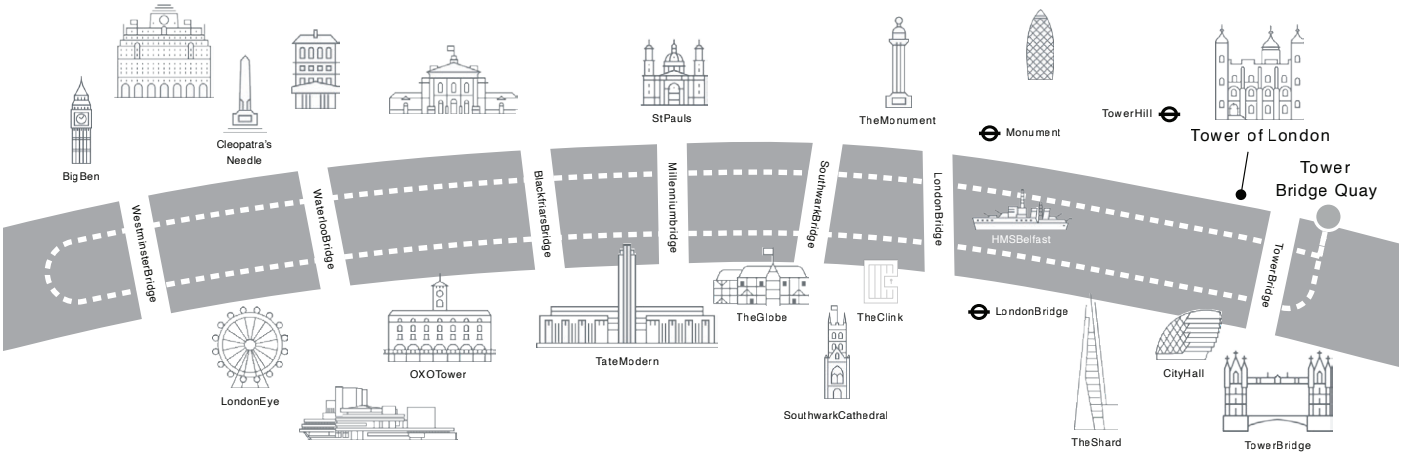
SPOT THE FAMOUS SITES



AFTER YOUR VISIT

Write a 200-word response: "London's river is a witness to continuity and change." Make a balanced judgement using examples from at least two centuries and distinguish script claims from corroborated evidence.

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Teacher note: KS4: suitable for GCSE historical enquiry, interpretations, significance and change/continuity; precise syllabus alignment depends on exam board and chosen GCSE history options. Not every example will be directly examinable.

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.