Reading 2 - London

Read this text and answer the questions.



Over the past 2000 years, London has survived invasions, epidemics, fires, periods of great poverty and hunger and air raids in the 2nd World War. The history of London is incredible, as it grew from a small Roman town to one of the greatest cities in the world.

London (Londinium) was founded[1] by the Romans in AD 47 on the banks of the river Thames, after the Romans successfully invaded Britain. There are still bits of Roman London all over the city. They chose the place on the River Thames because it was a quick way to transport goods between Britain and the continent. The Romans saw this and built the town of Londinium around the river's main crossing point. They built the first London Bridge.

The Romans built many major structures in Londinium including temples or sanctuaries, bathhouses, a basilica and a governor's palace. Around 200 AD, they built a defensive wall around the city called *London Wall*. The wall was around three miles long, 20 feet high and 8 feet wide. You can still see bits of the Roman Wall that surrounded the city today. The biggest pieces can be seen from the Museum of London.

The system of roads that the Romans built is still working as modern roads in Britain. Of the fifteen British routes recorded in the 2nd or 3rd century, seven ran to or from Londinium.

After the Romans, the Saxons, the Vikings and the Normans invaded Britain and London. Today, London is one of the world's most exciting places and has been called the world's most impressive, most expensive, and most-popular-for-

[1] TO FOUND: *start, build*

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work city. It now has around 8 million people, one of the biggest cities in the world. Together they speak over 300 languages. In 2012, London became the first city to have organised three modern Summer Olympic Games.

21. In which paragraph do we get information about Roman architecture in Londinium?

- **A.** Paragraph 1
- **B.** Paragraph 2
- **C.** Paragraph 3
- **D.** Paragraph 4
- **E.** Paragraph 5

22. London has...

- **A.** always been one of the greatest cities in the world.
- **B.** an extraordinary history.
- **C.** no record of its foundation.
- **D.** no signs today of its Roman origin.

23. The River Thames was important because it offered...

- **A.** a good transport system.
- **B.** an opportunity to build bridges.
- **C.** fresh water.
- **D.** space to build major structures.

24. The wall around London...

- **A.** was built the year London was founded.
- **B.** can still be seen today.
- **C.** is inside the museum of London.
- **D.** was much more than 3 miles long.

25. List 4 types of buildings that existed in Londinium and that are mentioned in this text: _____, _____, _____ and _____.

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26. Only TWO of these statements are true. Circle the TWO statements that are true.

- **A.** All paragraphs in the text are about the Roman conquest of Britain and the foundation of London.
- **B.** Before the Romans, London was called Londinium.
- **C.** London has not always been the big city we know today.
- **D.** The history of London has always been peaceful.
- **E.** The road network the Romans built in Britain is visible today.

27. Apart from the Romans, the _____, the _____ and the_____ also invaded Britain.

28. London today is...

- **A.** a city where less than 300 languages are spoken.
- **B.** a city where people can buy anything they want for a reasonable price.
- **C.** the largest city in the world.
- **D.** the city with more Summer Olympic Games in its history.

29. One title for this text could be…

- **A.** LONDON, ITS INTERESTING HISTORY
- **B.** LONDON, A MULTICULTURAL CITY
- **C.** LONDON, THE MOST POPULAR DESTINATION IN THE WORLD
- **D.** LONDON AND ITS TRAGIC HISTORY

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