1. Match the picture of a London landmark with its description in English.
   Carefully read the descriptions of 15 London attractions and match them with the pictures.

The Houses of Parliament

The Houses of Parliament, also known as Westminster Palace is the seat of the British Parliament, which consist of two houses: the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

The Clock Tower of the Houses of Parliament is famous for its big hour bell, known as «Big Ben». The name «Big Ben» actually refers not to the clock-tower, and not to the clock, but to the thirteen-ton bell hung within the tower. There are two versions of the origin of the name «Big Ben». According to the first version, it was named after the deputy Benjamin Hall, a very tall and stout man, who supervised the rebuilding of Parliament. According to the second version, it was named after the famous British heavyweight boxer Benjamin Caunt, who is more known among people as Big Ben.

The Tower of London

Another place which is worth seeing in London is for sure the Tower of London. The Tower of London is a complex of 20 towers set within two concentric rings of defensive walls and moat. Since it was built by William the Conqueror in the 11th century, this castle has been a fortress, a Royal palace, a prison, a place of execution, an arsenal, a zoo, the Royal Mint, and an observatory. Now it is a museum of armour and also the place where Crown Jewels are kept.

The guards of her Royal Majesty who guard the Tower are often called «Beefeaters» from English word “beef”. This nickname probably appeared during the famine, when Londoners were starving, and the monarch's private bodyguards regularly received the ration of beef. Nowadays beefeaters not only guard the tower and give guided tours of the fortress but also look after the ravens that have been living here for centuries. There is a legend that the Britain Empire will fall if the ravens leave the Tower. That’s why the wings of the ravens are clipped to prevent them from flying away.

Tower Bridge

Not far from the Tower of London there is Tower Bridge — one of the symbols of London. Tower Bridge is a combination of drawbridge and suspension bridge across the Thames. It was built at the end of the 19th century to match the medieval style of the fortress. It was designed so that it could be used equally by road traffic and by ships going up the River Thames. The covered walkway between the two towers is opened to the public and offers a spectacular view of London. Tower Bridge is a hydraulic bridge, which works with the help of steam pumping engines. The maximum angle of raising is 86 C. It takes 1 minute to raise the bridge.

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St. Paul's Cathedral

St. Paul's Cathedral, the greatest of English churches, was built in the 17th century by a famous English architect, Sir Christopher Wren. It took Ch. Wren 35 years to build this cathedral. The dome of the cathedral is second in size only to St. Peter's in Rome.

The dome contains three circular galleries - the internal Whispering Gallery, the external Stone Gallery and the external Golden Gallery. The Whispering gallery, a circular walkway halfway up the inside of the dome, took its name thanks to its acoustics. Two people can stand at opposite sides of the 32m dome and one can whisper something against the wall and the person on the other side will hear it. The Stone Gallery is a broad platform with telescopes to make the best of the beautiful view and benches for weary legs. The Golden Gallery, an observation platform on the top of the dome, offers a panoramic view on the city of London.

Trafalgar Square

Trafalgar Square is a famous square in the center of London. The awarding of the Olympics was celebrated here and this has traditionally been the main place to celebrate the New Year and Christmas. In the middle of the square stands a tall Nelson's column, which was built to commemorate the victory of Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson over the French fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

Piccadilly Circus

Piccadilly Circus is a famous square which is a meeting point of six streets. Piccadilly was named after the tailor Roger Baker who became rich by making high collars called "piccadillies". He built a grand house in this area which he called "Piccadilly Hall", and the name has lived on. The word "Circus" refers to a roundabout around which the traffic circulated. In the middle of Piccadilly Circus there is a graceful statue of Eros, the Greek god of love and beauty. The Circus is close to major shopping and entertainment areas in Oxford and Regent streets.

Buckingham Palace

Another place of interest is Buckingham Palace. Buckingham Palace is the official residence of the Queen in London. Originally it was a large townhouse built for the Duke of Buckingham and acquired by King George III as a private residence. Buckingham Palace finally became the official royal palace of the British monarch on the accession of Queen Victoria, whose memorial stands in front of the Palace.

The popular tourist show is the daily ceremony of the Changing of the Guards, which takes place in front of Buckingham Palace. It lasts about 30 minutes and always attracts a lot of tourists.

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Westminster Abbey

Westminster Abbey is a large Gothic church built over 9 hundred years ago. A church has stood here since Saxon times, when it was known as West Monastery (Westminster), because of its position to the west of London's centre.

Westminster Abbey is the place where the coronation of nearly all British kings and queens has taken place. Many of them are buried here as well as some other famous people of Great Britain. There is one place in Westminster Abbey which the tourists like to visit most of all. This is the Poet's Corner. Many greatest poets and writers are buried there. Chaucer, Dickens, Kipling are among them. Newton and Darwin are buried there too. One can also see here the memorials to Shakespeare, Burns, Byron and Walter Scott.

The British Museum

Speaking about London it is impossible to say nothing about its museums. The British Museum is one of the most famous international museums in the world. The British Museum comprises a collection of ancient civilizations and the national library with a circular Reading Room. The British Museum is divided into the 11 major departments.

The Elgin Marbles, the collection of marble sculptures that were taken from the Parthenon in Athens, is one of the museum's most famous attractions.

Another highlight of the British Museum is the extensive Egyptian collection. Besides many sarcophagi, mummies and statues, the collection is home to the famous Rosetta stone, which was the key to understanding Egyptian picture writing, hieroglyphs.

There are also extremely important ethnological collections, including exhibits from the Pacific islands, such as ancient Polynesian idols, and America, such as the Aztec sculptures.

Madam Tussaud's Museum

The next major tourist attraction in London is Madame Tussaud's Museum. Madame Tussaud's Museum is a wax figures collection of different stars, celebrities from the world of cinema, music, sports and politics.

Madam Tussaud is a Frenchwoman who lived between 18-19 centuries and mastered the creation of wax figures. The first Tussaud's sculptures were Voltaire, Rousseau, Franklin, and also the death masks of aristocrats killed on the guillotine during the French Revolution.

The London museum was founded in 1835 and acquired great popularity in a moment. The creation of one wax figure takes masters half a year and costs over £30,000 or 400,000 hryvnyas. In the Grand hall we can see the founder of the wax gallery - Madam Tussaud in a company of famous statesmen, religious figures and monarchs. Nowadays Madame Tussaud's branches have appeared all over the world.

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The Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum is one of the most favorite museums with Londoners. Here there are collected 70 millions exhibits illustrating the evolution of our planet and life on it from the prehistoric time till nowadays.

The museum is famous for its collection of dinosaur skeletons. In the central hall we can see the 26 meters long skeleton of dinosaur diplodocus. Some dinosaur models are operated with the help of electricity and look like real ones.

Also a favorite with visitors is a hall dedicated to large mammals, including an enormous full-scale model of a blue whale and several elephants.

Another zone of the museum focuses on geology. Here you can see the earth seen from outer space and a simulated earthquake and volcanic eruption. There's also a large collection of minerals and stones.

The Royal Greenwich Observatory

The Royal Greenwich Observatory was founded in 1884 as the zero reference point for all time zones in the world. In the Royal Greenwich Observatory Prime Meridian lies – the zero-meridian giving the name to Greenwich Mean Time, the Standard Time of the World.

The Prime Meridian marks the point at which the earth's eastern hemisphere meets the west – the line which splits the world in two. Thousands of tourists come to visit the Observatory and stand on the Greenwich meridian line – one foot on the East, and the other foot – on the West.

The London Eye

Another new attraction on the bank of the River Thames is the London Eye, the largest observation wheel in the world built in honor of the beginning of the new Millennium. Since its opening in 2000, the London Eye has become a world-famous symbol of London and the centre of pilgrimage for tourists.

The 135-meter-high wheel provides an incredible panoramic view of London. A complete turn takes about 30 minutes, giving tourists plenty of time to enjoy the breathtaking scope of the city. The wheel has 32 passenger capsules, each with room for 25 people. It moves quite slowly, at a speed about 15 meters a minute, letting the passengers get on and off while it is still moving.

The Globe Theatre

The Globe Theatre is a reconstruction of the original Globe Theatre organized in the 17 century by William Shakespeare. The first theatre building was made of wood and burnt down. Instead of it the circular theatre was built in 1995, the reconstructed copy of that one, in which Shakespeare started. In the modern copy of the theatre Shakespearian plays are still produced. Shows at the new Globe are staged in much the same way as they were then — with no scenery, spotlights or microphones. The hall can seat 1500 thousand people.

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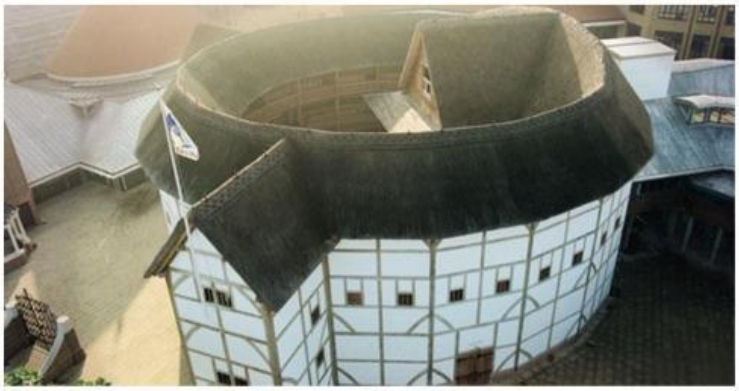
Hyde park

London has 6 royal parks. Hyde Park is the largest of six royal parks in London. Once a hunting ground for Henry VIII, Hyde Park is famous for its Speaker's Corner, a venue where people would be allowed to speak freely. Here, every Sunday people stand on a soap box and proclaim their views on political, religious or other items.



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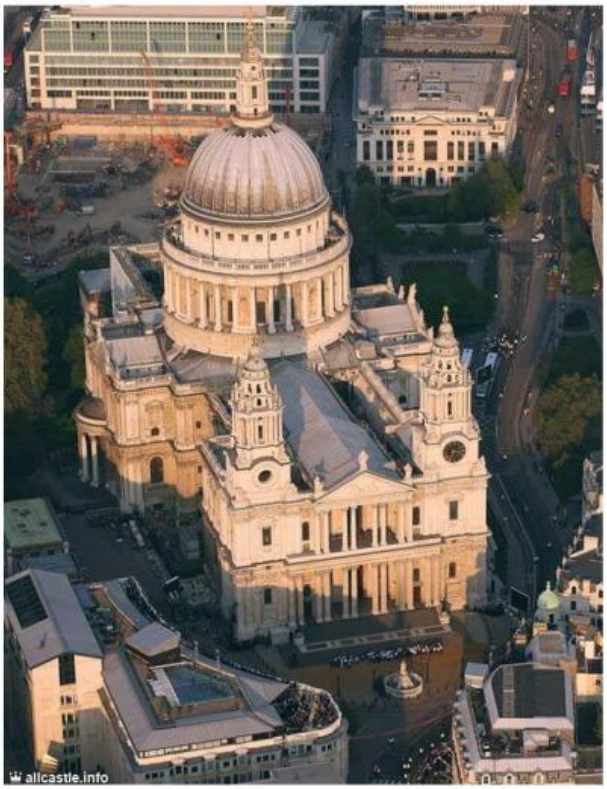

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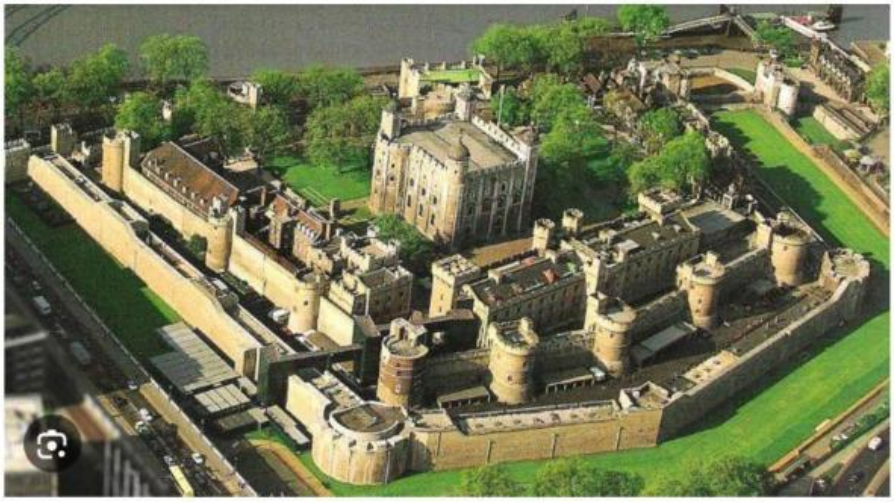

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