The London Underground

The London Underground (or Tube) is the world's oldest and largest underground rail network. It serves 287 stations on 11 different lines and covers 250 miles of track.

The first line opened in 1863 and ran between Paddington and Farringdon, although plans for an underground railway had been discussed for several decades before the opening. The wooden carriages were lit by gas and hauled by steam trains.

Despite the name, only about 60 percent of the system runs under the ground.

Some people have suggested that, because of poor air quality, travelling below ground in the London Underground for just 40 minutes is as unhealthy as smoking 2 cigarettes.

The first escalator on the London Underground was installed in 1911 at Earl's Court station. A man was hired to ride up and down the escalator all day to show customers it was safe.

The Underground has been featured in dozens of TV shows and films, including two James Bond films, Die Another Day and Skyfall. The 2004 horror film Creep takes place almost entirely on the Underground.

The famous London Underground map was designed by Harry Beck, who was paid almost nothing for his now famous design. Beck based his design on an electrical circuit diagram.

The journey between Leicester Square and Covent Garden is the most popular one with visitors to London. However, the distance is only about 200 yards and the journey takes less than 20 seconds.

During the Blitz in World War 2, thousands of lives were saved when the stations were used as air raid shelters.

Your task:

1. Number these events 1-4 in the order that they happened.

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The first escalator on the London Underground was installed in 1911 at Earl's Court station.	
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2. Write three sentences to summarise this text - describe the beginning, middle and end.

Beginning
Middle
End

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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