

# 1.- A BRIEF HISTORY OF LONDON.

## PREHISTORIC TIMES.

Some recent discoveries indicate that there were early settlements near the Thames river in the London area. In 1999, the remains of a Bronze Age bridge were found there. In 2010 the foundations of a large timber structure, dated to 4000 BC, were found near the Thames too.



Prehistoric people near the river.

## ROMAN PERIOD.

Romans established a town near the river Thames in 43 AD, and they called that place 'Londinium'. During the 2nd century Londinium's population was around 60,000 inhabitants. They built a lot of public buildings like temples, bathhouses, an amphitheatre and a fort for soldiers. Romans also built a defensive wall to protect the city about 3 kilometres long.



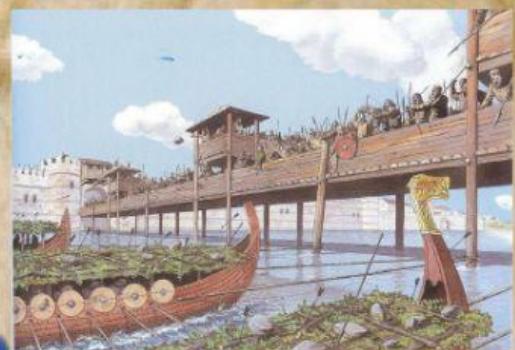
Londinium City in Roman times.

In 410 AD the Roman occupation of Britain finished and by the end of the 5th century the city was practically abandoned.

## ANGLO-SAXON LONDON.

The main Anglo-Saxon settlement was placed outside the Roman walls. In the early 7th century the King converted the country to Christianity, and London received its first bishop, and they built the first St. Paul's Cathedral. Later, Vikings attacked and sacked the city. They destroyed 'London Bridge'. There is a famous nursery rhyme about it:

"London Bridge is falling down, falling down, falling down, London Bridge is falling down, my fair lady"



London Bridge was destroyed by Vikings.

## MEDIEVAL LONDON.

Soon afterwards, the Normans invaded Britain from France and William the Conqueror took control. He was crowned as a King in 'Westminster Abbey'. He began to build the 'Tower of London'. The Tower was used as a castle, a palace, a zoo, a weapons store, and a prison.

London was formed by narrow streets, and most of the houses were made of wood and straw.

William the Conqueror started to build the Tower of London.



## TUDOR LONDON.

Henry VIII was the King of England from 1509 until 1547. He separated England from the Catholicism and led England to a new religion: Anglicanism (a kind of Protestantism). He married six times.

London was the centre of trade and government. The Tudors built palaces and parks. You can still see deer in Richmond Park, in south London.

The river Thames was very important in Tudor times, and Britain's navy was expanded. Ships were sent to explore the world (America, India...)



Henry VIII and his six wives.



The Globe

The first theatres were built in London. The most famous was **The Globe**. The original theatre was burnt in 1613 and immediately rebuilt. Shakespeare's plays were performed there.

## GUNPOWDER PLOT OF 1605.

When King James I was on the throne, England was divided in two parts: the Anglicans and the Catholics. Guy Fawkes and a group of thirteen Catholic men planned to put a Catholic monarch back on the throne. They planned to explode the Parliament, but they failed and they were executed.

It was on 1605 and nowadays, people celebrate 'Bonfire Night' every November 5th. They go to a Fireworks and make bonfires and burn a model of Guy Fawkes in them.



Guy Fawkes placed gunpowder in a cellar under the Parliament.



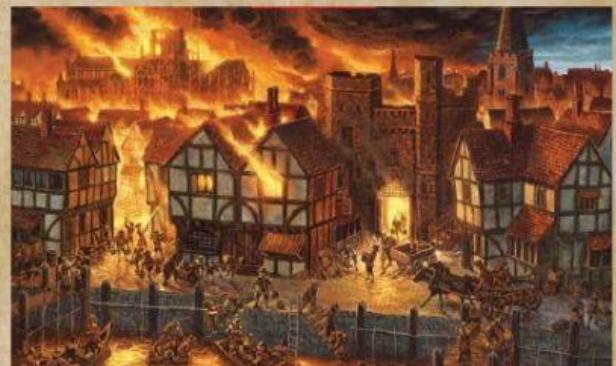
The Plague in 1665

## THE PLAGUE AND THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON.

In 1665, rats from boats brought bubonic plague into the city of London. Because people lived in very narrow streets and they have a poor hygiene. It spread very quickly.

If someone in your house was infected, a red cross was painted on your door and everyone inside was isolated for 40 days. More than 100,000 people died.

In September of 1666, an enormous fire destroyed about 80% of London in four days. Buildings were made of wood and they burnt very quickly. After that fire all new buildings were made of stone and brick.



Great Fire of London.

## LONDON IN 19th CENTURY.

Britain was a very powerful nation in the 18th Century and London was an important financial centre.

Queen Victoria was crowned in 1837 and she died in 1901. During her reign railways were improved. London was one of the most important cities in the world. Many of the buildings in London today were built in Victorian times. The most famous is the new 'Houses of Parliament'.

London had the first underground railway ('The Tube') which opened in 1862.



Queen Victoria in her coronation.



## LONDON IN 20th CENTURY.

London continued to grow during the 20th Century. The city was an important trade centre. 'Harrods' was the first department store built in London.

The Blitz

## THE BLITZ.

During the Second World War, London suffered very hard air attacks. Everyday, German planes threw down thousands of tonnes of bombs over the city. Many buildings and houses were destroyed. A lot of people died during the Blitz. Many people took shelter in the underground railway stations. Lots of children were evacuated from London with just a small suitcase to go and stay with other families outside the city.

## 1.- LOOK UP THESE WORDS OR EXPRESSIONS IN A DICTIONARY.

settlement:	remains:	recent discoveries:
Bronze Age:	foundations:	timber structure:
dated to: <i>datados sobre...</i>	to establish:	population:
inhabitants:	bathhouse:	defensive wall:
fort:	practically:	Roman occupation:
Anglo-Saxon: <i>Anglosajón</i>	to convert:	to receive:
bishop:	to attack:	to sack:
to destroy:	fair lady: <i>bella dama</i>	nursery rhyme:
soon:	afterwards:	the Normans: <i>los Normandos</i>
Conqueror: <i>Conquistador</i>	be crowned: <i>ser coronado</i>	narrow streets:
Catholicism: <i>Catolicismo</i>	Anglicanism: <i>Anglicanismo</i>	trade:
deer:	to rebuild:	Britain's navy:
a play: <i>obra de teatro</i>	to perform:	throne:
to plan:	to explode:	Parliament:
to fail:	be executed:	bonfire:
fireworks:	bubonic plague: <i>peste bubónica</i>	reign:
be isolated:	powerful:	Department store:
the Blitz: <i>El bombardeo</i>	tonne:	suitcase:
to take shelter: <i>refugiarse</i>	to evacuate:	

## 2.- DRAG AND DROP:

Bronze Age's settlements



QUEEN  
VICTORIA

Defensive Wall around 'Londinium'



PREHISTORIC  
PEOPLE

Destroyed London Bridge



WILLIAM the  
CONQUEROR

Started to build Tower of London



GERMANS

Built the Houses of Parliament



ROMANS

Air attacks in the Second World War



VIKINGS

### 3.- ORDER THESE PEOPLE CHRONOLOGICALLY. (drag and drop)

- 1.- Queen Victoria
- 2.- Vikings
- 3.- Guy Fawkes
- 4.- Anglo-Saxons
- 5.- Romans
- 6.- William the Conqueror
- 7.- Prehistoric people
- 8.- Henry VIII

### 4.- ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS, OR COMPLETE THE SENTENCES.

- 1.- The Romans built a \_\_\_\_\_ (about 3 km. long) to protect the city.
- 2.- When did Roman occupation finish? In \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.- Who attacked London in the 7th century? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.- Where was William the Conqueror crowned?  
In Buckingham Palace, In the Tower of London, In Westminster Abbey
- 5.- What is the name of the new religion that Henry VIII created? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.- What is the name of the most famous theatre in London? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.- Guy Fawkes and his friends wanted to put a Catholic / Anglican monarch on the throne.
- 8.- In 1665, the period of time that a person was isolated to prevent the dissemination of the Plague was \_\_\_\_\_ days, so for this reason it was called 'Quarantine'
- 9.- What is the most important building built in Victorian Times?  
Westminster Abbey The Tower of London The Houses of Parliament
- 10.- What is the name of the air attacks from German planes to London in the Second World War? The \_\_\_\_\_