

London

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The smell of London once got so bad that Parliament seriously considered _____ the capital.

London's population _____ in the 19th century, from a million people in 1800 to over five million in 1900. Many of these new Londoners were poor immigrants from the countryside _____ work, and huge numbers of them ended _____ living in the city slums. Hot, overcrowded, with little running water or sanitation, the _____ stink of unwashed bodies, tobacco smoke, horses and garbage _____ have been horrendous.

But worse still was the smell which came _____ the river Thames. There was no effective _____ in London until the 1860s. Before that, all toilet waste, animal carcasses, butchers remains and general filth was _____ into the river.

In 1858 the summer got so hot that the river water levels dropped _____, leaving huge banks of sludgy waste in its place, stinking in the summer heat. Even Queen Victoria was affected. She tried to enjoy a river _____ but _____ the idea when they reached the river and smelt the almighty stench.

Dickens wrote to a friend complaining "I can certify that the offensive smells, even in that short whiff, have been of a most head-and-stomach-distending nature."

Parliament - itself built along the river edge - _____ whether to _____ to Oxford or St Albans to _____ the miasma. In fact it was this summer, nicknamed the Great Stink, which eventually _____ the government to invest in a proper _____ network.

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