



HISTORY OF LONDON

Irena Śledzińska

1. LONDON – FROM ANCIENT ROMAS TO PRESENT



FIRST PEOPLE

Prehistoric nomadic groups originally lived in the area of present London around 6.000 B.C.



Evidence of Bronze Age (3300 to 1200 B.C) bridges and Iron Age (between 1200 B.C. and 600 B.C.) forts were found near the river Thames.

ANCIENT ROMAS

During the time of power of Roman Empire, in 43 A.D. ancient Romans founded a harbour and trading settlement called Londinium.



17 years later the town was burned to the ground but it was quickly rebuilt. Unfortunately it burned down and was rebuilt again.

After all that town grew fast. The number of citizens increased up to 40 thousand.

ANCIENT ROMAS

After 474 A.D. (the year of the fall of the Roman Empire) the town was attacked by Vikings several times. In those years lots of people left the old London.



(photo of the present Cathedral)

During one of the Vikings attacks in 962 the second St. Paul's Cathedral was destroyed.



11TH CENTURY

In 1065, when Westminster Abbey was created, the city started growing fast again.



Tower of London

One year later, in 1066, William the Conqueror was crowned the King of England. During his kingship the **Tower of London** was built.

PLAUGE

In 1665, the city inhabited by half a million people, was hit by the plague of the Black Death.



The Great Plague killed around 100.000 people. It wasn't the end of disasters, though. A year after a huge part of London was turned into dust in the Great Fire of London.

GRAT FIRE OF LONDON

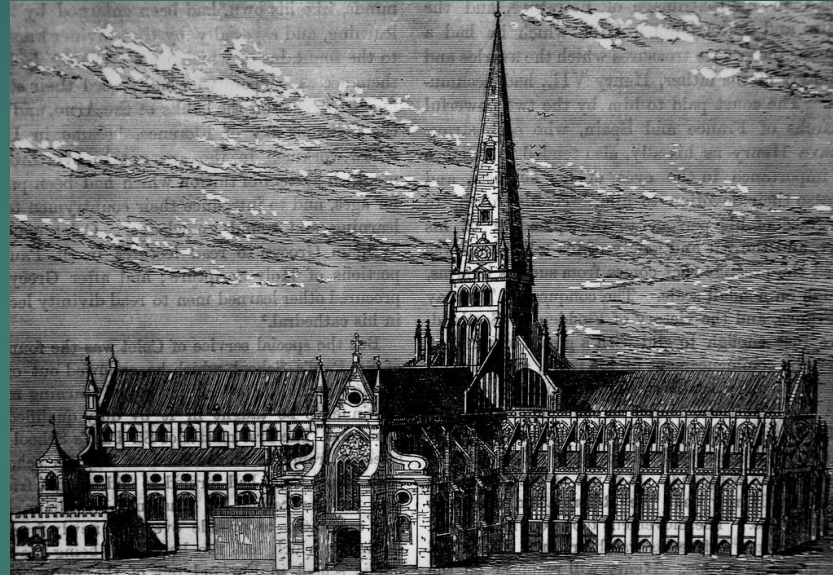
In 1666, between September the 2nd and September the 6th, a huge fire was destroying London.



The damage was so huge, because there were lots of stables with hay and straw in London, most of the buildings were made of wood or other flammable materials. Prolonging period of time without rain made it even worse.

GRAT FIRE OF LONDON

Strong wind helped the fire spread through the town.



The Cathedral before being destroyed.

One of the last major buildings which burned was St Paul's Cathedral. Many people thought that stone construction will survive, but it didn't.

GRAT FIRE OF LONDON

At the end the Great Fire of London changed around 13.200 buildings into ruins and left 100.000 citizens homeless.



One-third of the city was destroyed.

GROWTH OF LONDON



Due to the fact that John Houblon founded the **Bank of England** in 1694 London quickly turned into a very important city in international trades. By 1840 London was inhabited by 2 millions of people.

The world's first underground was opened in 1863 in London.



That big number of inhabitants caused some epidemics.

LONDON DURING WORLD WARS



During attacks people used to hide in the Underground stations.

London was damaged in both WW1 and WW2, but during the second one, exactly during the Battle of Britain many bombs were dropped on the city. They killed over 30.000 residents.



2. THE MOST KNOWN BUILDINGS



- Palace of Westminster
- St Paul's Cathedral
- Buckingham Palace
- Tower Bridge
- British Museum

PALACE OF WESTMINSTER



This tower, in which Big Ben is located, is named Elizabeth Tower. Originally it was Clock Tower, but it was renamed in 2012.



It's probably the most known building in London. It is used by British Parliament and other parts of British government.

PALACE OF WESTMINSTER

Big Ben

The Great Bell, nicknamed Big Ben, for 23 years was the biggest bell in Great Britain. It weighs over 13 tones and it's 178 years old (2021).



ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The present cathedral is 346 years old. It's at least the fourth of that kind of building, which is located in this place.



The previous one was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666.



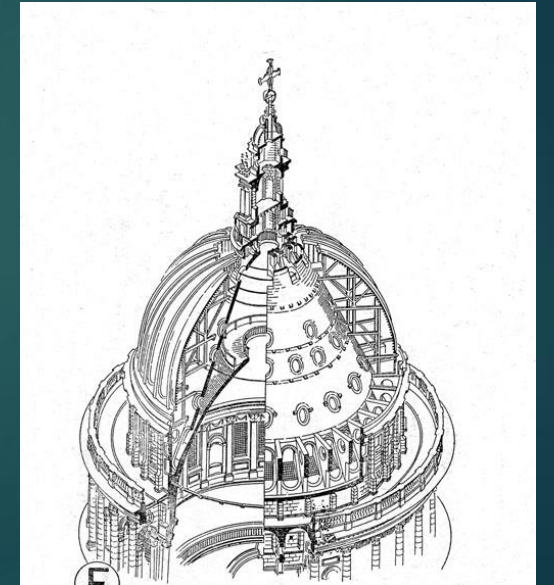
In 604 the first St Paul's church was built. It was made from wood and burned down 71 years later.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL



The Dome

The cathedral's dome is the second largest in the world. It weights approximately 65.000 tones and is 111 meters high.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

This building is huge. It has 77.000 square metres of living space. In the Palace there are 775 rooms in which there are over 90 offices, 78 bathrooms and almost 200 stuff bedrooms.



Since 1952 the Buckingham Palace is the house of Queen Elizabeth II and her family. In the building Queen receives lots of guests, many of them are important public figures.

TOWER BRIDGE



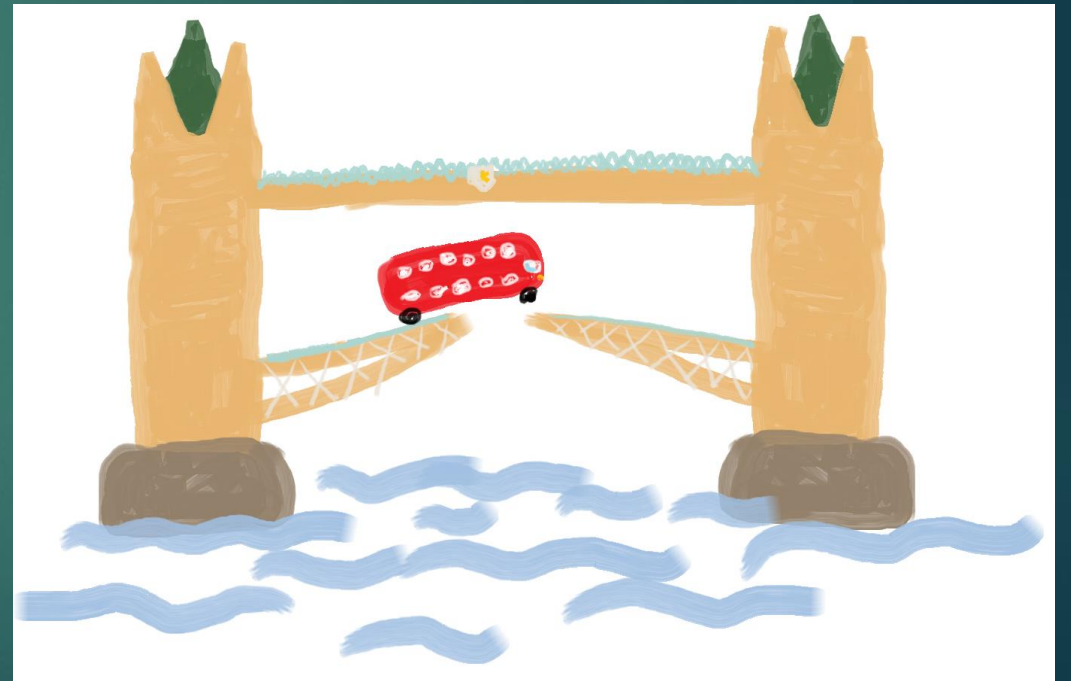
Tower Bridge used to have its own stables and horses. It was caused by the apprehension that some horses could not be strong enough to get to the other side of the bridge pulling their carts.



It's one of many widely recognized symbols of London. This bridge connects two riverbanks of the river Thames.

TOWER BRIDGE

In 1952 Albert Gunter had to **jump the rising bascule with a bus**. It happened because watchman had forgotten to ring the warning bell and to close the gates. Albert successfully got to the other side of bridge. Everyone survived, only driver broke his leg.



BRITISH MUSEUM

This museum was the first public national museum in the world. It has been opened to the public since 1759, but was set up in 1753.



Every year the museum is visited by around 6.5 million people. It makes this place the most commonly visited attraction in the United Kingdom.

BRITISH MUSEUM

The sculpture above the main entrance shows the progress of civilization.



The British Museum used to be light up by the natural light. Oli and gas lamps couldn't be used inside because of the risk of setting up fire. It was a huge problem because in the winter or during bad weather it had to be closed. There wasn't enough light to watch the exhibitons. This caused that the Museum became **one of the first buildings with electric lights.**

THE END

In my opinion London has rather interesting and fascinating history. In this town there are also huge amount of buildings and places worth to be seen (also modern ones, like Warner Bros. Studio). A visit in London would be great test of your skills in English language.

