

Student's Worksheet

London – sights

Task 3: Read the text to learn more about these sights.

Big Ben

Big Ben is the name of a huge bell inside the clock in the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament. Its hands are 4.2 m and 2.7 m long.

Piccadilly Circus

This circus in West End is the center of London's entertainment world. In the middle there's the fountain with the statue of Eros. At night it's brought to life by its brilliant advertisements.

The Tower of London

It's an old fortress whose oldest part – The White Tower was built by William the Conqueror. It was a royal castle, but it's better known as a prison for very important prisoners. Kings, queens and noblemen were imprisoned here and a lot of them lost their heads. E.g.: Anne Boleyn, mother of Queen Elizabeth I. Later there were kept royal animals, including elephants, bears and lions. Today you can see there beafeaters in traditional Tudor uniforms guarding the Tower and the Crown Jewels. There are also eight ravens kept in the Tower. The legend says that the tower will fall if they leave.

Tower Bridge

It's the most famous bridge in London near The Tower of London. It can be raised to let ships pass through.

Trafalgar Square

This large square was named after Vice Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson's victory over Napoleon at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. This victory is commemorated



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by Nelson's Column in the middle of the square. The statue on the top is 5 m high and shows Nelson facing admiralty. There are four lions at the base of the column. Nearby you can see two fountains and a lot of pigeons. In this square there is The British Museum, The National Gallery and the parish church of the Royal family - St.Martin-in-the-Fields. People come here to celebrate here the New Year's Eve or to demonstrate.

Buckingham Palace

It is the official residence of the Queen and the Royal Family. When the Queen is at home the royal flag is on the top. In front of the main gate to the palace there is the Queen Victoria Memorial. She was the first British monarch to reside there. The changing of the guard is one of the most popular tourist attractions.

Houses of Parliament

The buildings of the Houses of Parliament (the Palace of Westminster) stand on the north bank of the river Thames in Parliament Square and are the seat of the government. When the parliament is sitting a Union Jack is flying on the tower.

Westminster Abbey

This wonderful cathedral is one of the oldest buildings in London and one of the most important religious centres in the country. William the Conqueror was the first monarch who was crowned there on the coronation throne as well as all the kings and queens of England. Many of them were buried there too. There are also tombs and memorials to a lot of famous people.

Saint Paul's Cathedral

This cathedral is in the centre of the city. It was built by Sir Christopher Wren after the old Cathedral had been completely destroyed by the Great Fire of London in 1666. It has a huge dome and inside there is the "Whispering Gallery". If you whisper a word into the wall of the dome it can be clearly heard on the other side of the dome. Prince Charles married here Princess Diana and



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his son Prince William married here his wife Catherine - now The Duchess of Cambridge.

10 Downing Street

This little street is the Britain's best known address – home of the British Prime Minister.

Greenwich

It's a district of south-east London and it's notable for its maritime history and for giving its name to the Greenwich Meridian (0° longitude) and Greenwich Mean Time. In the Old Royal Observatory you can see the exhibition of clocks and chronometers and the tourists like taking photos on the line of the Greenwich Meridian. Greenwich also has a lovely park where the London Marathon starts.

HMS The Cutty Sark

The Cutty Sark is a British clipper ship. In the 19th century she transported tea from China. It was badly damaged by fire in 2007, but it was restored and reopened to the public in 2012. The *Cutty Sark* has been preserved as a museum ship, and has become a popular tourist attraction. She is located near the centre of Greenwich, in south-east London, close aboard the National Maritime Museum and Greenwich Park. She is also a prominent landmark on the route of the London Marathon.

The Monument

This monument was designed by Sir Christopher Wren and erected in 1671 to commemorate the Great Fire of London. The fire started on this spot in a baker's shop in Pudding Lane near London Bridge.



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London Eye

The London Eye is a giant wheel on the South Bank of the River Thames in London. It has 32 capsules and one revolution takes about 30 minutes. Since it was opened in 2000 it became one of the biggest tourist attractions.



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Task 4: Read these short conversations and say where the tourists are.

- 1 A: Oh, that pigeon sat down on my shoulder!
B: Oh, it's cute. They are everywhere. I'll take a photo of you with the pigeons.

- 2 A: What's the time?
B: Wait a second, you'll hear it.

- 3 A: Let's sing "London's burning" here.
B: A good idea!

- 4 A: Where were they executed?
B: Here, on this lawn.

- 5 A: Look, here is a tomb of Isaac Newton.
B: Oh, yes. And there's the Poets' corner with the bust of Shakespeare.

- 6 A: I hope it won't open now.
B: Don't worry. They announce it 24 hours before its opening.

- 7 A: Is the Queen at home?
B: No, she isn't. There's no flag on the roof.

- 8 A: See you at 7 p.m. at the statue of Eros.
B: OK. Don't be late.

- 9 A: Look at that Bobby in that little lane. Why is he there?
B: I don't know. Let's ask those people pointing at the house.

- 10 A: Look, I am standing in both hemispheres at the same time.
B: Say: "Cheese".



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