



evropský
sociální
fond v ČR



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání
pro konkurenceschopnost



GYMNÁZIUM
PRACHATICE

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Student's Worksheet

London – basic facts

Task 2: Read the text about London.

London, the capital of the United Kingdom, is situated in south-east England on the river Thames. With the population of 8,000,000 people it's the biggest city of the UK.

In the 18th century Dr. Samuel Johnson said: "A man who is tired of London is tired of life". And it's still true. London is a political centre, a commercial centre, a paradise for theatre-goers, concert-goers and shoppers, but it's also a very quiet place with parks and ancient buildings and a cultural centre with museums and galleries.

History

London was founded by the Romans in 43 A.D. and was called Londinium. This lasted for just seventeen years and around 61, the Iceni tribe led by Queen Boudica stormed it, burning it to the ground. When it was rebuilt by the Romans, it was surrounded by the wall and this area within the wall is now called the City of London. With the collapse of Roman rule in the early 5th century, London ceased to be a capital and it again became the capital of the kingdom in 1066 when William the Conqueror conquered England. He built the Tower and was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In the Middle Ages many churches were built and many craftsmen and merchants began to settle in London.

In the 16th century London became an important economic and financial centre and the first theatres were built.

But in the 17th century two terrible events happened: the Great Plague in 1665, in which around 100,000 people died and the Great Fire of London in 1666 which destroyed most of the city. Fortunately nobody died in the fire, but many buildings had to be rebuilt.



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

In the 19th century London was one of the most important centres of the Industrial Revolution and the centre of the British Empire.

In the 20th century during WWII London was bombed by the German Luftwaffe and 30,000 people were killed and a lot of houses were destroyed. From the 1940s onwards, London became home to a large number of immigrants, largely from Commonwealth countries making London one of the most diverse cities in Europe.

In 1980s London became one of the major international financial centres and the Thames Barrier was completed to protect London against tidal surges from the North Sea.

To celebrate the start of the 21st century, the Millennium Dome, London Eye and Millennium Bridge were constructed. In 2012 London hosted the Summer Olympics. It became the first city to stage the Olympic Games three times.

Means of transport

If you travel to London, you can travel by plane, by coach, by train or by car.

There are six international airports and several small airports in London. They make the busiest airport system in the world by passenger numbers. The largest London Airport is **Heathrow**. It has 5 terminals and two parallel runways and it's the third busiest airport in the world as well as the busiest airport in United Kingdom and the busiest in Europe. It is used by over 90 airlines flying to 170 destinations.

The second busiest airport in London is **Gatwick** and it is also the busiest single runway airport in the world. It consists of two terminals.

London's third airport is **Stansted**.

If you travel to London by train, you will come to one of 18 railway stations in London. The best known are **Waterloo Station** and **Paddington Station**.



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Waterloo Station is the British busiest railway station and one of the busiest passenger terminals in Europe. It's also the London terminus of Eurostar international trains to Paris and Brussels.

Paddington Station, also known as London Paddington, is a central London railway terminus and London Underground station complex with 14 platforms. In stalls there you can buy teddy bear Paddington. It's a character from the children's book which is very popular in Britain. This bear was named after the railway station, because it was found there by a little girl. It came alone from Peru with a note on its coat: "Please look after this bear, thank you". To know all the story, go to Paddington Station and buy there a book and a souvenir.

London public transport includes the underground (tube), double-decker buses, buses, trams, ships, the docklands light railway and taxis.

London underground called the tube is the oldest underground in the world. Now it has 11 lines and 270 stations.

The red double-decker buses have become a symbol of London and they transfer more passengers than the tube. But in London there are also a lot of common buses.

Trams have been used in London suburbs since 2000 and on the river Thames you can also travel by small river-buses. Besides there are a lot of leisure cruises mainly for tourists.

The iconic black cab remains a common sight. They are driven by the only taxicab drivers in the world who have spent at least three years learning the city inside out to gain 'The Knowledge'.

The Docklands Light Railway (DLR) is an automated light rail system serving the Docklands area of east London. It complements the Underground, largely sharing its fares system and having a number of interchanges with it. It is focused on the Canary Wharf business district.



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Shopping

If you like shopping, London is the place to go. There are thousands of shops and department stores. The largest department store is **Harrods**. It's also the official shop of the Royal family. The second largest department store is **Selfridges**. It offers banking services and you can eat there in seven restaurants. Selfridges is in **Oxford Street** which is the Europe's busiest shopping center with about 300 shops.

If you like markets, go to **Portobello Road Market** which is one of the oldest and most famous markets in London or to **Petticoat Lane Market** which is open only on Sunday mornings.

Theatres and concert halls

London has all the different kinds of entertainment that you can find in a capital city. The center for night life is **Soho**, a district full of restaurants, night clubs, cinemas and theatres. The majority of London's theatres are situated around **Shaftesbury Avenue**, **the Strand** and nearby streets in the **West End**. The best known are **The Royal Opera House** and **The Globe**.

The Royal Opera House is an opera house in **Covent Garden**. It is the home of The Royal Opera, The Royal Ballet, and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House.

The Globe Theatre is the theatre associated with William Shakespeare who built the first Globe Theatre in 1599. In 1613 it was destroyed by fire and then rebuilt, but in 1642 it was closed. The third Globe Theatre was opened in 1997.

If you like music, you can go to **the Royal Albert Hall** where are over 5,000 seats or to **the Royal Festival Hall** with 2,500 seats.

Museums and galleries

Many people visit London's museums and galleries. The best known is **The British Museum** which is the largest and richest museum in the world. Another one is e.g. **The Natural History Museum**, **The Victoria and Albert Museum** or **Madame Tussaud's Museum** displaying waxworks of historical and royal figures, film stars, sports stars and infamous murderers.



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

If you like art, go to [The National Gallery](#), [The Tate Gallery](#) or [The Tate Modern](#).

Parks

In London there are parks everywhere. The Londoners can walk there in the green, have a picnic, row a boat, go horse-riding or feed and watch animals.

The best-known is [Hyde Park](#). The best day to go there is Sunday. Then in Speaker's Corner you can see people listening to a person standing on a stool and expressing his or her opinions to the crowd.

[St. James's Park](#) is the most ancient of London Royal parks.

[Regent's Park](#) is the right place for you to go if you like animals. Here you can feed the ducks and watch the pelicans.

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Task 5: In this word square find:

2 railway stations, 2 museums, 2 galleries, 2 airports, 2 department stores, 2 theatres, 1 concert hall, 2 parks

Can you find any other places of interest?

A	N	O	I	T	A	T	S	O	O	L	R	E	T	A	W	S	H	J	L
L	A	E	R	T	U	L	B	H	X	E	S	V	B	U	R	W	E	R	Y
L	T	O	E	P	Q	E	R	S	D	F	A	H	G	S	H	P	V	B	A
A	I	A	P	A	D	D	I	N	G	T	O	N	S	T	A	T	I	O	N
H	O	R	E	J	E	P	T	O	T	U	K	R	A	P	E	D	Y	H	G
L	N	A	Z	B	T	S	I	Z	B	E	R	T	D	E	W	P	D	F	H
A	A	E	O	D	T	F	S	H	K	L	S	D	F	S	H	W	B	A	L
V	L	L	H	S	A	E	H	R	T	Y	H	G	D	S	T	K	R	K	J
I	G	A	T	A	T	E	M	O	D	E	R	N	J	F	L	R	J	H	D
T	A	S	D	C	V	B	U	G	T	T	U	O	P	E	O	A	E	R	S
S	L	A	W	R	E	W	S	E	F	G	H	J	K	D	K	P	L	E	P
E	L	O	E	O	R	W	E	Q	E	R	T	C	S	Y	U	S	I	O	T
F	E	L	N	T	R	R	U	R	E	S	I	R	T	Y	R	T	O	D	F
L	R	A	Q	S	T	H	M	R	T	W	O	O	V	N	M	N	L	H	K
A	Y	X	H	S	O	P	T	M	T	D	F	T	A	T	O	E	G	R	O
Y	G	S	E	R	D	O	F	A	X	O	T	E	E	R	S	G	R	T	E
O	P	O	N	B	C	H	G	N	E	D	R	A	G	T	N	E	V	O	C
R	A	D	G	H	J	K	L	O	O	H	Y	T	R	E	E	R	Q	A	D
O	F	S	D	U	A	S	S	U	T	E	M	A	D	A	M	W	L	K	H
R	B	K	L	B	O	J	H	F	D	S	E	G	D	I	R	F	L	E	S