

The Royal River Thames

When you go by boat from Westminster along the Thames to Greenwich, you pass many interesting things worth seeing. Some of them are introduced in sections A-K on the next page. Find the section that contains information which matches each phrase below. Write the letter of that section in the appropriate box. Make sure you fill in a letter in every box. You must use some letters more than once.



In what section can you read about...

- 1 a memorial to the big fire in London in the 17th century?
- 2 a place where you can see a play and have a meal?
- 3 Londoners who had to pay to cross the river here?
- 4 a monument given to the English, in memory of a victory at sea?
- 5 a church built in place of another one?
- 6 the buildings whose architects never saw the final result of their work?
- 7 the founder of an American place of learning?
- 8 tax money that was used to build a famous bridge?
- 9 a monument whose first site was in another country?
- 10 a construction, whose name is connected with a monastic order?
- 11 the buildings at a place where kings used to live?
- 12 an exact copy of an older building?
- 13 where a building was destroyed in the 19th century?

A The Houses of Parliament

Designed by Charles Barry and the underlying genius of Pugin, who was responsible for all the decorative work. The buildings occupied the site of the old Royal Palace of Westminster, which had burnt down in 1834. Neither Barry nor Pugin were to live to see the new buildings completed. The famous tower and clock are known as “Big Ben”, but this is in fact the name of the 16-ton bell which rings the hour.

B Cleopatra’s Needle

This obelisk was first erected in Egypt by Pharaoh Thotmes III around 1500 BC. It was presented to the British people in 1819, in recognition of Nelson’s victory over the French fleet at the battle of the Nile in 1798.

C Royal National Theatre

Opened in 1976, this building contains three theatres: Olivier, Lyttleton and the Cottesloe, as well as restaurants and a bookshop. Visitors can join tours of the building.

D Blackfriars Bridge

Opened in 1869 by Queen Victoria. Its stone pillars shaped like the pulpits of a church, echo the 12th century Benedictine monastery whose monks’ black habits gave the area its name.

E St Paul’s Cathedral

Wren’s masterpiece took 35 years to build. Work started in 1675 during the reign of Charles II to replace the old St Paul’s which was destroyed by fire in 1666. Its 365 ft (110m) high dome is slightly smaller than St Peter’s in Rome.

F The Globe

Guided tours give an opportunity of witnessing this great Elizabethan theatre following its reconstruction precisely as it would have been over 400 years ago. The tours paint a vivid picture of the surrounding area and of the theatre itself, in which Shakespeare was not only a shareholder, but also an actor, and where most of his plays were first performed.

G Southwark Bridge

The present bridge, dating from 1921, replaced the original toll bridge opened in 1819. It was never very popular, as the Londoners preferred to use the toll-free London Bridge.

H Southwark Cathedral

Some parts date back to the 12th century when it was attached to a priory. It was here that John Harvard, who founded Harvard University, was christened in 1607, and where Shakespeare’s brother Edmund lies buried.

I The Monument

Designed by Wren and completed in 1677, to commemorate the Great Fire of London of 1666. The column stands 202 ft (62m) high, the same distance as from the starting point of the fire in Pudding Lane. It is also the tallest freestanding stone column in the world.

K Custom House

Headquarters of HM Customs and Excise, the present building is the fifth on this site, the first dating back to the 14th century when all wool brought into London was weighed and taxed there. It was this Wool Tax that enabled Henry II to contribute to the building of London Bridge.