



The Experience

KS2 Creative Pod Plan for Teachers

We have created this very simple, easy-to-deliver, 30-minute Creative Pod Plan for you to help inspire students during their London Eye Experience.

Please **PRINT THIS PLAN** and bring the required resources to complete this lesson on the day.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To be **INSPIRED** by their flight over the London skyline.

To **LOCATE** famous London landmarks.

To **LEARN** more about the history and architecture of London's landmarks.

To **PARTICIPATE** in a curriculum linked activity during the 30-minute rotation.

ABOUT YOUR FLIGHT

Length of Flight/Lesson: 30 minutes

Maximum class size in a pod is 28 (students and chaperones), if greater than this your group will be split between pods.

All guests will be subject to security and bag checks before boarding the London Eye.

All guests will exit through the gift shop.

PROPOSED FLIGHT ITINERARY

Following security checks and boarding (time varies in relation to queue), **students arrive at the Pod entrance.** Safely get into the Pod.

WELCOME TO THE LONDON EYE!

Listen to announcement and let students familiarise themselves with the capsule. 2 minutes

Provide a brief introduction to the London Eye (Resource 1) 3 minutes

Starter Task: Skyline Facts 5 minutes

Starting with the East share some of the facts and raise questions in relation to architecture and landmarks the students will be able to see looking out over the skyline. Follow with a couple looking to the North (Resource 2)

Main Activity 5 minutes

Deliver chosen activity from activities 1-5

Take a Break You'll be at the very top! 3mins

Main Activity 5 minutes

Complete chosen activity

Plenary Task: Skyline Facts 5 minutes

Finish the experience with some of the facts and raise questions in relation to architecture and landmarks looking to the **West** and then **South** (Resource 2)

End of Pod Journey (includes photo announcement) 2 minutes

THANK YOU FOR TAKING FLIGHT TODAY!
PLEASE TAKE CARE WHEN YOU LEAVE THE POD.
TAKE YOUR WORK WITH YOU AND WE HOPE YOU'VE BEEN INSPIRED BY THE LONDON SKYLINE!

Students carry the work they've done out of the Pod so that they can develop it or use it to complete the post visit activities.

Leave Pod

IN-POD ACTIVITIES

Choose one to include in your rotation. **You will need to bring pens/pencils and clipboards to complete the activities.**

ACTIVITY 1: LANDMARK LOCATOR

Can students use the corresponding Image Bank to match the correct landmarks to the right orientation as they complete their rotation? (N.B. Avoid using these landmarks during the starter and plenary tasks)

ACTIVITY 2: BUILDINGS, ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS

In this activity, pupils will compare pairs of buildings in terms of different criteria such as size, age, and position. In addition, they will select building designs they prefer, from a choice provided, and give reasons for choice.

ACTIVITY 3: EXPLORING THE THAMES

Ask pupils to observe and note all the ways they can see the river being used.

ACTIVITY 4: DESIGNING LONDON

In this task, pupils will sketch and annotate two building designs which they select themselves.

ACTIVITY 5: THE EYE IN NUMBERS

This task involves pupils compiling a bank of numerical data about the London Eye. They will be provided with a list of numbers from which to choose and must match these to the correct fact. They will discover facts such as: how many passengers can travel on the Eye at any one time; the weight of an individual capsule and the number of panes of glass used in the entire structure!

SUPPORTING RESOURCES

RESOURCE 1: London Eye Introduction

RESOURCE 2: Skyline facts: North, East, South & West

KEY TERMINOLOGY/LANGUAGE

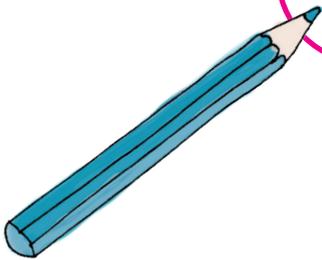
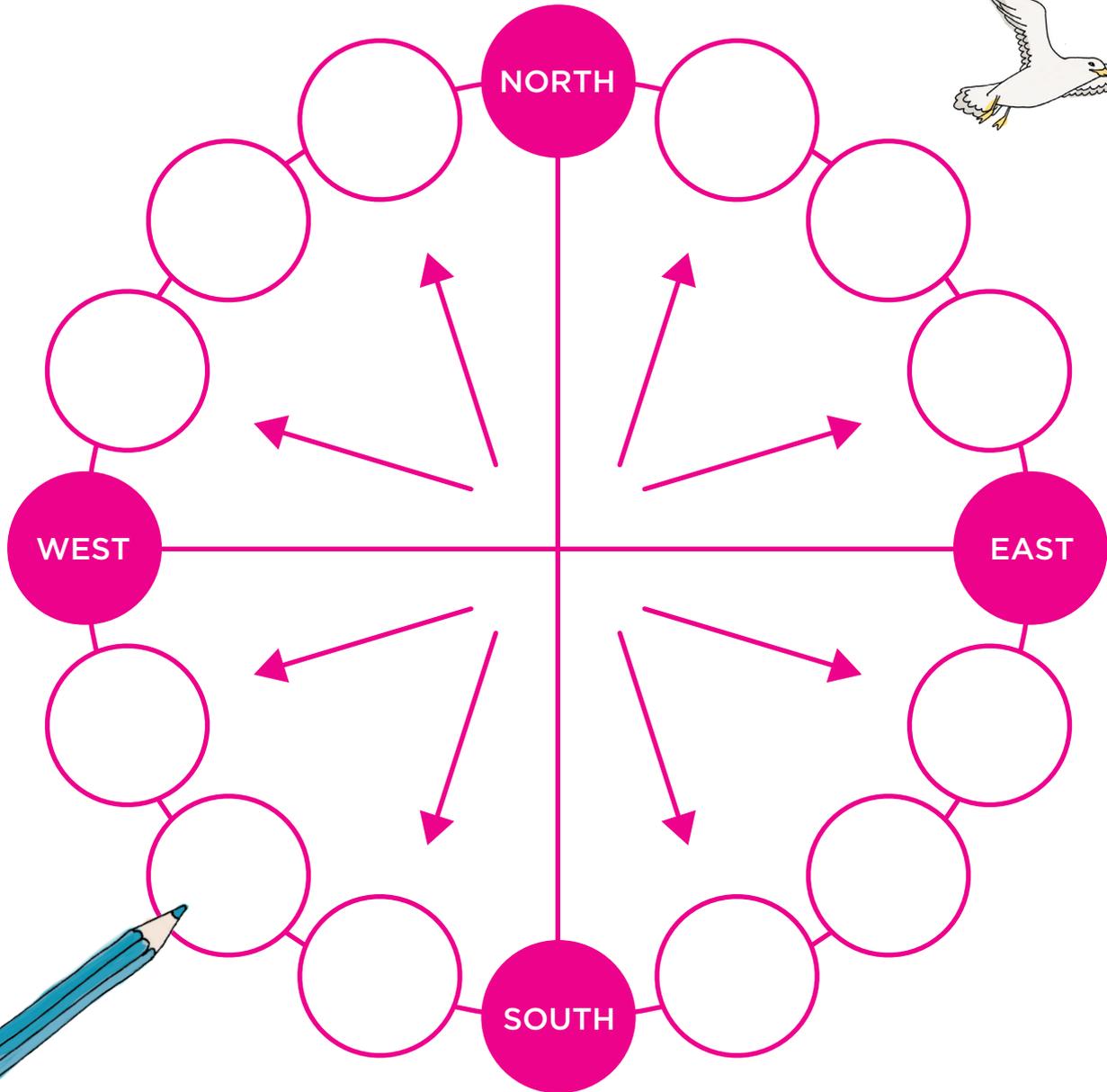
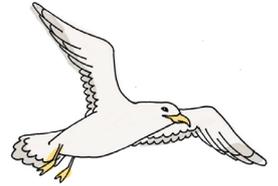
London, City, Skyline, Architecture, Culture, Society, Development, Change, Inspiration, Local, National.



Activity 1

LANDMARK LOCATOR

Locate the following buildings and sort them into the correct compass points to show their position in the capital.



LIST OF LANDMARKS

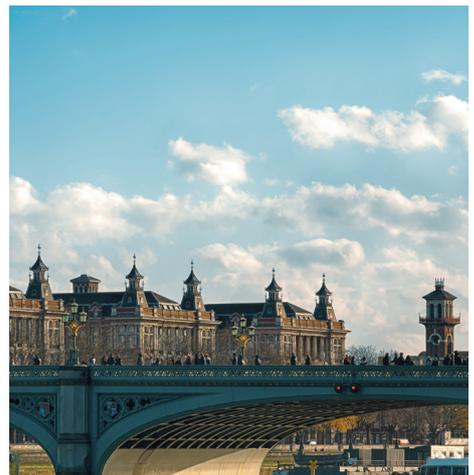
- The Shard
- Westminster Abbey
- Wembley Stadium
- Canary Wharf
- Houses of Parliament
- St Paul's Cathedral
- St Thomas' Hospital
- Cleopatra's Needle
- OXO Tower
- MI6
- Buckingham Palace
- Tower Bridge





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London Eye

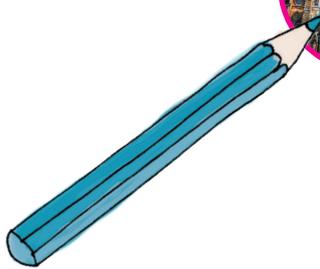
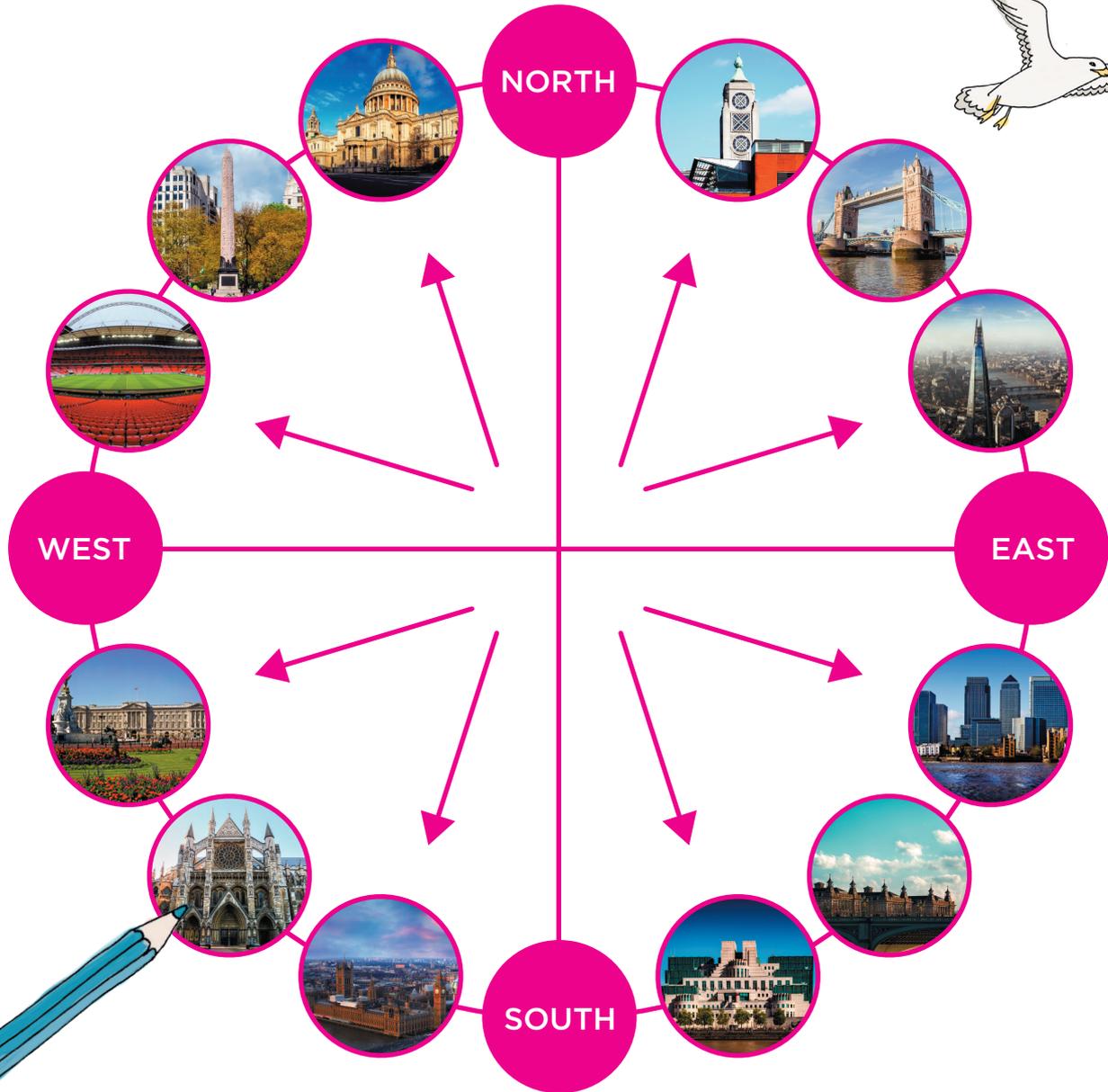
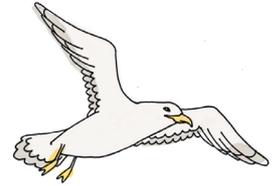
Buckingham Palace photo credit: Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2022. Photographer: Andrew Holt.





LANDMARK LOCATOR

Locate the following buildings and sort them into the correct compass points to show their position in the capital.



NORTH TO EAST -

- OXO Tower
- Tower Bridge
- The Shard

EAST TO SOUTH -

- Canary Wharf
- St Thomas' Hospital
- MI6

SOUTH TO WEST -

- Houses of Parliament
- Westminster Abbey
- Buckingham Palace

WEST TO NORTH -

- Wembley Stadium
- Cleopatra's Needle
- St Paul's Cathedral



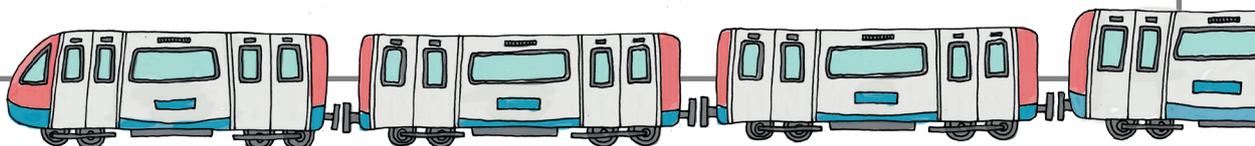


Activity 2

BUILDINGS, ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS

Circle your answer each time.

Which is taller?	St Paul's Cathedral or Big Ben
Which is older?	Tower Bridge or Waterloo Bridge
Which is bigger?	Green Park or Hyde Park
Which is closer to the Thames	Buckingham Palace or the Walkie Talkie
Which was built more recently	The Southbank Centre or The Shard
Which design to you prefer?	The Gherkin or The Shard
Explain why:	
Which designer do you admire most?	Sir Christopher Wren (St Paul's Cathedral) or Sir Norman Foster (Wembley Stadium)
Explain why:	
Which bridge design do you admire most?	Tower Bridge or the Millennium Bridge?
Explain why:	



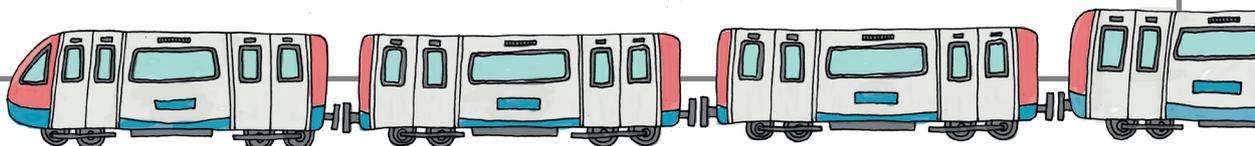


Activity 2 - Teachers answer sheet

BUILDINGS, ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS

Circle your answer each time.

Which is taller?	St Paul's Cathedral
Which is older?	Tower Bridge
Which is bigger?	Hyde Park
Which is closer to the Thames	Walkie Talkie
Which was built more recently	The Shard
Which design to you prefer?	The Gherkin or The Shard
Explain why:	
Which designer do you admire most?	Sir Christopher Wren (St Paul's Cathedral) or Sir Norman Foster (Wembley Stadium)
Explain why:	
Which bridge design do you admire most?	Tower Bridge or the Millennium Bridge?
Explain why:	





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Activity 4

London Eye

DESIGNING LONDON

Select two contrasting building designs. Create a quick sketch of each with notes about the design, shapes, construction materials, differences etc. of each building.

Building 1:

Building 2:



The London Eye is conceived and designed by Marks Barfield Architects





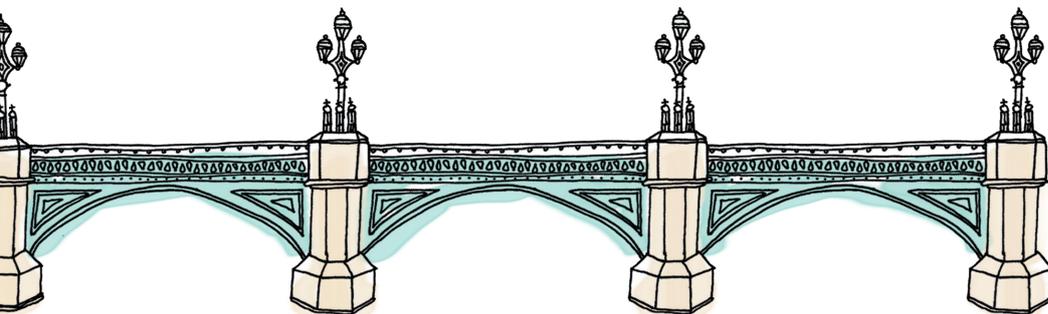
Activity 5

THE EYE IN NUMBERS

Complete the table of data about the London Eye by selecting from the numbers in the box below. Remember to think about what you have heard or seen and use estimation skills to help.

1152	4.9	10	16	800
2100	135	424	75	32

Height of the London Eye	metres
Time it took to build the London Eye	months
Number of people the Eye can hold per rotation	people
Cost to build the London Eye	million pounds
Circumference of the wheel	metres
Number of pods	pods
Weight of a pod	tonnes
Height of a pod	metres
Weight of the entire structure	tonnes
Number of panels of glass in the entire structure	panels





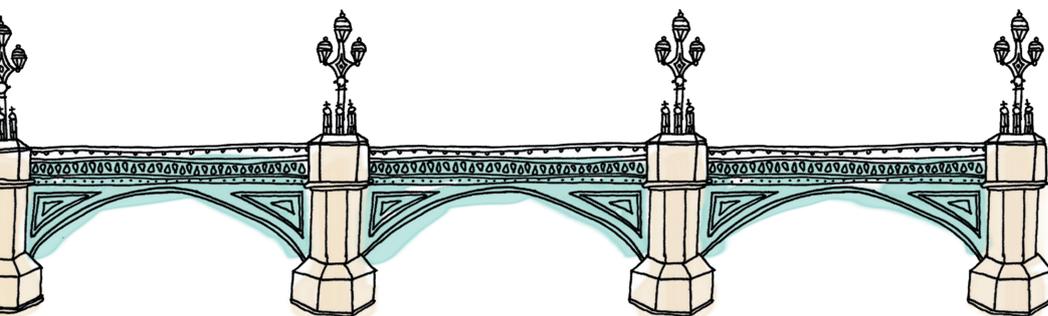
Activity 5 - Teachers answer sheet

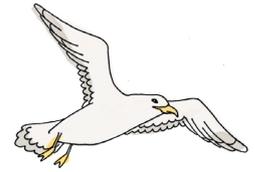
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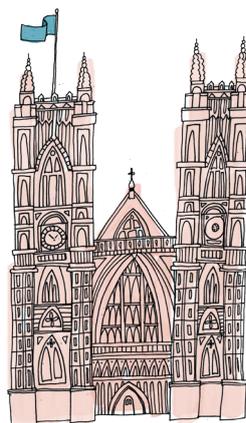
Height of the London Eye	135 metres
Time it took to build the London Eye	16 months
Number of people the Eye can hold per rotation	800 people
Cost to build the London Eye	75 million pounds
Circumference of the wheel	424 metres
Number of pods	32 pods
Weight of a pod	10 tonnes
Height of a pod	4.9 metres
Weight of the entire structure	2100 tonnes
Number of panels of glass in the entire structure	1152 panels





FACTS ABOUT THE LONDON EYE

- The idea for the London Eye originally came from a newspaper competition! A husband and wife called David Marks and Julia Barfield designed it for a competition to find a landmark for the Millennium in a national newspaper. The competition was abandoned with no winner, but they were so passionate about their idea that they decided to pursue it. A local London newspaper campaigned for the Eye to be built.
- The different components of the Eye were shipped up the River Thames and assembled in a ring above the water. It was then lifted into its vertical position on the South Bank by the largest cranes in the world in 1999, just before the Millennium Eve. It opened in the year 2000 to celebrate the Millennium.
- At 135 metres high, this is the world's highest observation wheel, not a Ferris wheel. There are three reasons that this is not a Ferris wheel: the pods are fixed on the outside of the rim (Ferris wheels are on the inside); the pods are completely enclosed and because the London Eye is supported by an "A" shaped frame on one side only.
- You are now in one of 32 high tech fully enclosed pods – one for every borough of London. For superstitious reasons they are numbered up to 33, so that pod number 13 is missed out.

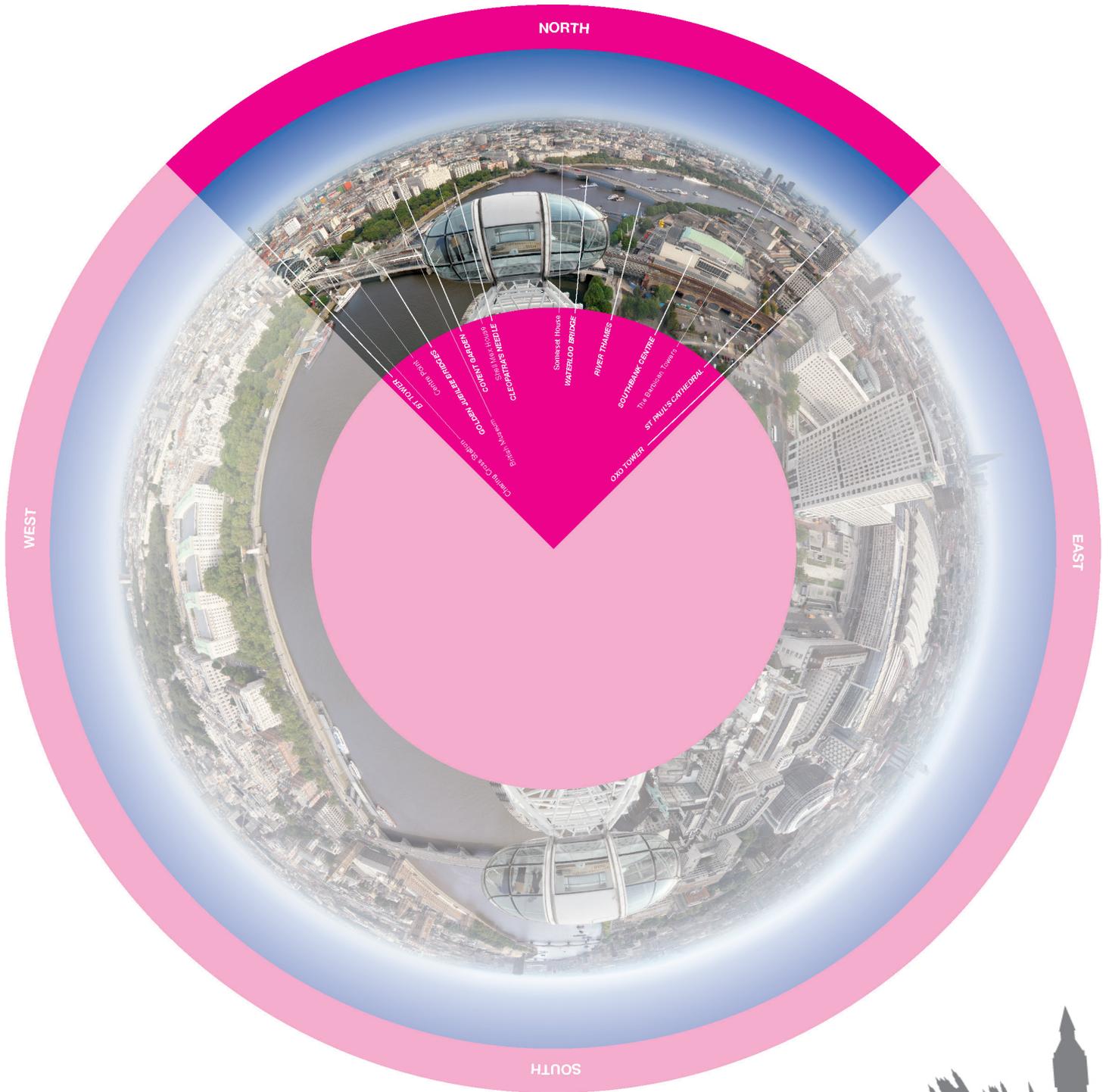




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London Eye

Resource 2 - North Skyline





Resource 2 - North Skyline

RIVER THAMES

- Longest river in England – 215 miles
- Starts in the Cotswolds and finishes at the North Sea
- Many towns and cities have been built around rivers – why do you think this is? (Washing, cooking, transportation of goods and building materials)
- How many bridges do you think there are over the Thames in London alone? (24)

GOLDEN JUBILEE BRIDGES

- What are these bridges used for? (Pedestrians)
- 2 bridges completed in 2002 were named to honour the 50th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne
- Hungerford Bridge carries trains across the river from Charing Cross Station

WATERLOO BRIDGE

- Completed in 1945 and nicknamed The Ladies Bridge – can anyone think why? (Built by mainly women during WW2)

BT TOWER

- **Show image.** Can anyone name this building?
- Used to carry telecommunications traffic but now monitors air quality in the city
- Inside the tower, something travels at over 6 metres per second – what could it be? (The lift - one of fastest in Europe)

COVENT GARDEN

- **Show image.** Old image of Covent Garden – what can you see?
- Today famous for shops, street performers, bars and restaurants
- A very famous snack was invented here – any ideas what it was? (The sandwich by the Earl of Sandwich)

CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE

- **Show image.** Where do you think this structure came from? (Egypt)
- It was a gift to Britain and is one of a pair – the other stands in NYC
- Took over half a century (how many years is this?) to get here as it got washed up in a storm on the way to London and was lost for some time
- The Victorians buried a time pod beneath it





Resource 2 - North Skyline

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

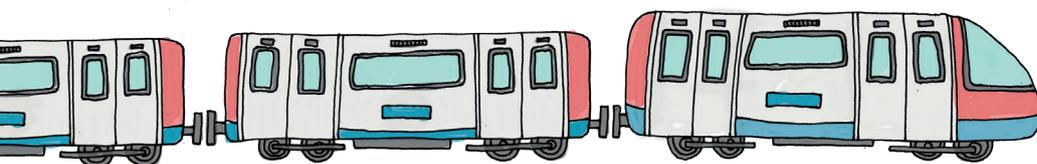
- Designed by Sir Christopher Wren and completed in 1710 to replace the original medieval cathedral – Why did they need to replace it? Think about what happened in 1666? (Great Fire of London)
- Has the 2nd largest dome in the world – after St Peter's in the Vatican
- Was the tallest building in London when it was built

OXO TOWER

- Who can see the Oxo Tower? How did you spot it?
- The building was originally a power station and then got rebuilt for the owners of Oxo beef cubes. They wanted to include a tower with signs advertising their product but at the time advertising was banned along the Southbank. How did they manage it? (Included a circle and cross design into stained glass)
- Now contains shops, apartments and restaurants

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

- What is this centre well known for? (Music, theatre, dance – the arts)
- Do you think it's one of London's older or newer buildings? (Newer)
- Built in 1951 and is the largest single-run arts centre in the world





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London Eye

Resource 2 - North Skyline

BT TOWER:



CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE



COVENT GARDEN:





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London Eye

Resource 2 - East Skyline

MILLENNIUM BRIDGE

- Opened in 2000 and called the Millennium Bridge and very quickly nicknamed the 'wobbly bridge' as it swayed from side to side
- Closed for 2 years so changes could be made

BFI LONDON IMAX CINEMA

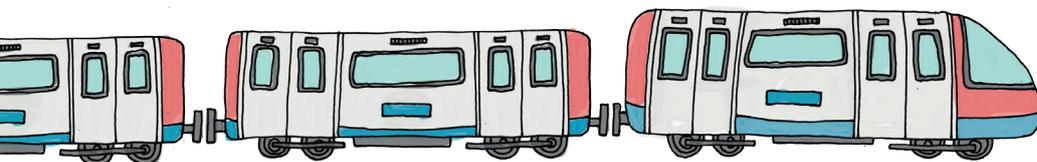
- This cinema has 500 seats and has a huge screen – How many double decker buses high do you think the screen is? (5)
- The whole structure rests on anti-vibration springs – Any idea what might cause that vibration? (The Waterloo and City tube line just 4 metres below!)

TOWER OF LONDON

- William the Conqueror began The White Tower around 1078 and monarchs that followed have added to the building which we see today
- What is found in this royal palace? (The Crown Jewels)
- In the past being invited to the Towers was not a welcome invitation as many were taken here for torture or execution as traitors

CANARY WHARF

- **Show images of Canary Wharf past and present** – ask pupils to describe the changes they can see
- Was a cargo warehouse and is now home to many offices and apartments – the tallest building is One Canada Square
- Area around it is called Docklands and was created as hub for cargo boats in the 18th century – the boats used to dock near to London Bridge but there was no protection from bad weather and thieves were rife so special docks were built





TOWER BRIDGE

- **Show image of Tower Bridge.** How is it different to some of the other bridges you can see?
- Opened in 1894 and still a working bridge – raised over 1000 times a year

OLYMPIC PARK

- Which Olympics was the stadium built for? (2012)
- Huge site (500 acres) in East London and is the most sustainable Olympic Stadium ever built
- What else is at the site as well as the Olympic Park? (Velopark and Aquatics Centre)

30 ST MARY AXE (THE GHERKIN)

- How is it different or similar to other buildings you can see?
- This stands near to Pudding Lane – what is this location well-known for? (Start of the Great Fire of London) The fire raged from 2nd-5th September in 1666 and it's estimated it destroyed the homes of 70,000 of the city's 80,000 inhabitants – Why do you think the fire spread so quickly? (Buildings had thatched roofs which spread to the wooden structure.)

THE LEADENHALL BUILDING (THE CHEESEGRATER)

- The Shard and the Leadenhall Building are two of London's tallest buildings – which is taller? (The Shard at 306m compared to Leadenhall at 225m)
- The Shard is the tallest building in Europe – Estimate how many storeys high? (87)

WALKIE TALKIE (20 FENCHURCH ST)

- An example of how designs need to be evaluated and changes made
- When first built the curved shape was causing sunlight to be reflected onto the street below, causing damage to people's cars and businesses – a journalist managed to fry an egg on the hot tiles one day
- A sunshade had to be installed to prevent this



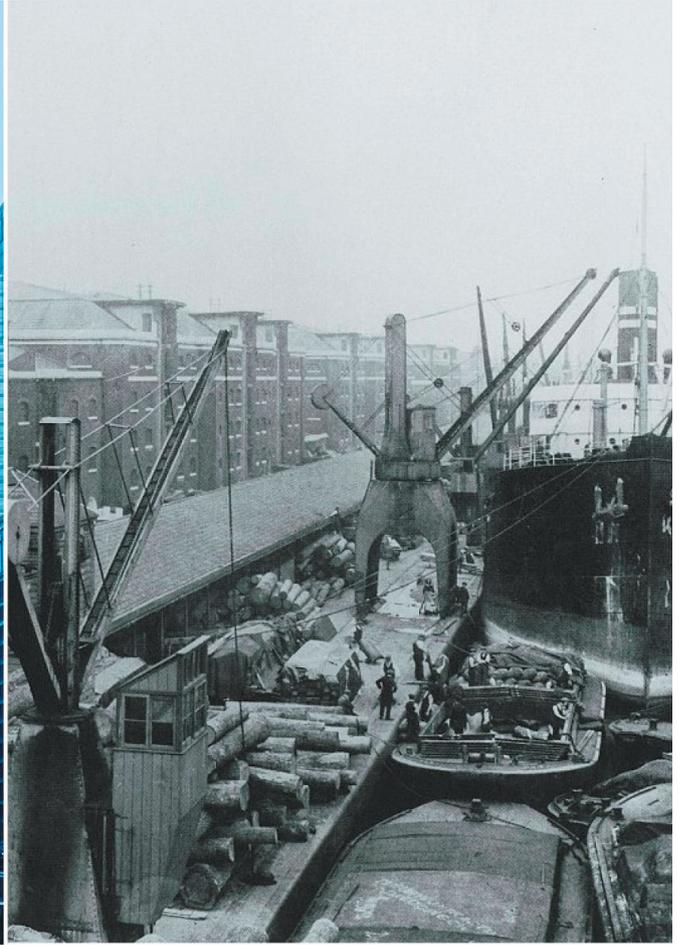


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Resource 2 - East Skyline

CANARY WHARF:



TOWER BRIDGE:

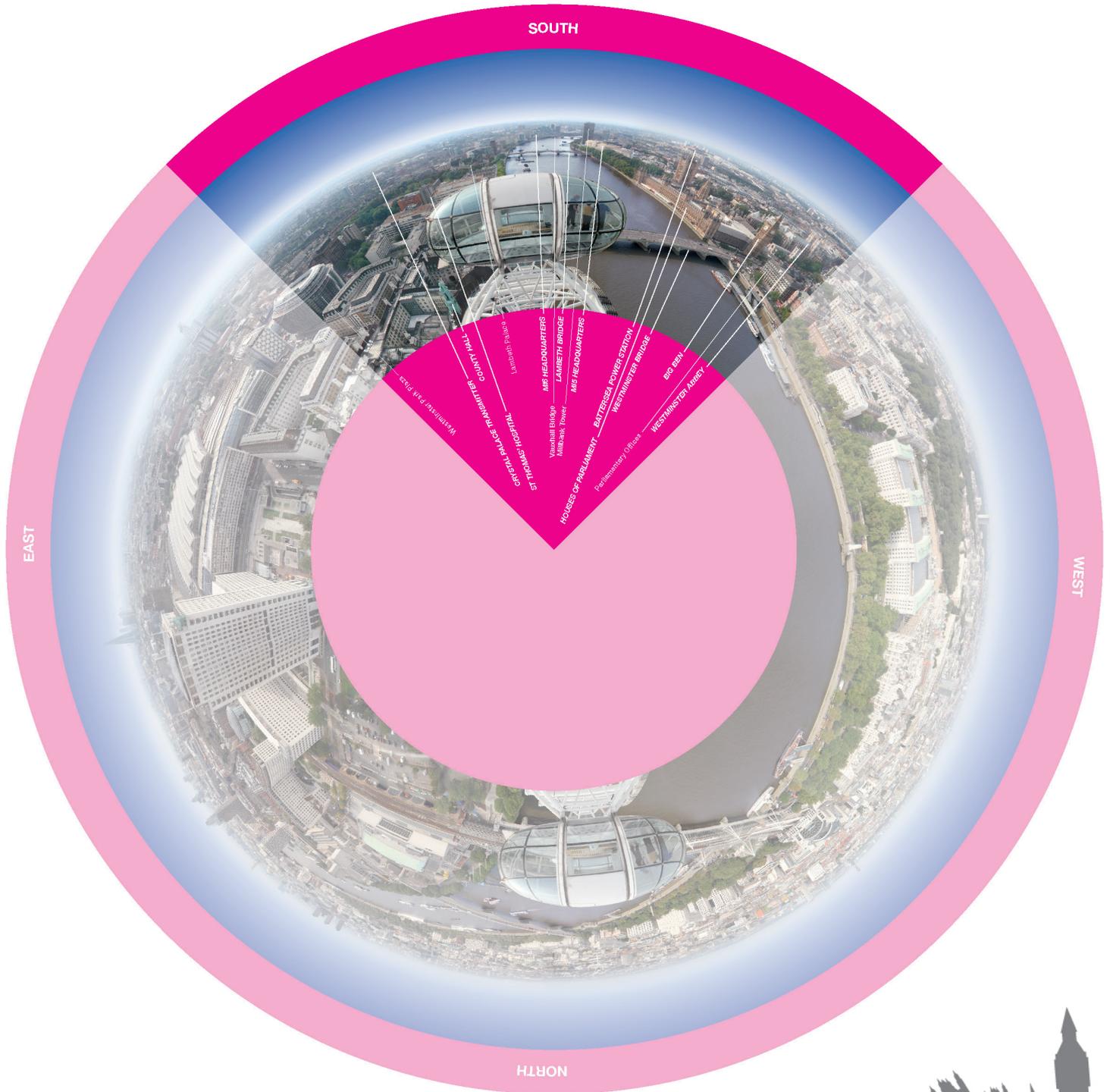




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London Eye

Resource 2 - South Skyline





CRYSTAL PALACE TRANSMITTER

- Look for a building which looks like the Eiffel Tower
- Once the tallest structure in London and is a giant TV and radio aerial
- World's first colour TV pictures broadcast from here – Which year do you think this was: 1751, 1851 or 1951? (1851)
- Name comes from the huge glass exhibition hall used for the 1851 'Great Exhibition' in Hyde Park during the Victorian era – first exhibition of manufactured products to which people flocked from all over
- The glass palace was moved after the exhibition but was destroyed by fire in 1936

MI6

- Home of British Secret Intelligence Service – protects the country and gathers intelligence outside the UK
- Bomb and bullet-proof walls, triple-glazed windows and two moats
- Much of building below ground

MI5

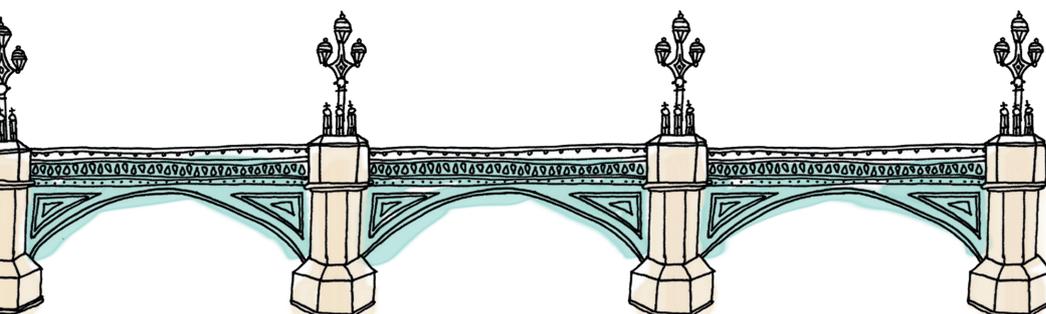
- Responsible for protecting the UK and its citizens from threats inside the UK

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

- Ask pupils what this vast and ornate building is?
- Made up of the House of Commons (green awnings and green leather benches inside) and the House of Lords (red awnings and red leather benches inside)
- Rebuilt in 1860 following a fire

LAMBETH BRIDGE AND WESTMINSTER BRIDGE

- Ask pupils what they notice about these bridges? (Red paint representing House of Lords and green paint like the House of Commons)
- Westminster bridge is the oldest bridge across the Thames in London
- Lambeth bridge featured in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban





Resource 2 - South Skyline

BATTERSEA POWER STATION

- **Show image of Battersea Power Station** – this was once a swampy area known for pigeon shooting, country fairs and duelling in the 1800s. What do the pupils see now in that area?
- Currently under development but the large brick building built in an Art Deco style was designed by an architect called Sir Giles Gilbert Scott who designed something else which is now quite an iconic image of Britain – Tell pupils it's a small structure, about two metres high, which has a door and is painted red. **(Red phone box - show image).**

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

- Since 1066, all English Kings and Queens have been crowned here
- Which members of the royal family married here in 2011? (Prince William and Kate Middleton)

BIG BEN

- Ask pupils where Big Ben is and what it is? (Nickname for the 14 tonne bell in the clock tower)
- Clock tower is part of the Palace of Westminster

ST THOMAS' HOSPITAL

- **Show image** of the statue standing outside the hospital and ask pupils who they think this is and what she is well-known for? (Florence Nightingale)
- Florence Nightingale recommended the hospital be moved to where we see it currently in 1871
- She founded the Nightingale School for nurses and the hospital is a major teaching hospital today

COUNTY HALL

- Used to be headquarters of local government for London – Ask pupils what it's used for today? (Hotels, restaurants, apartments, SEA LIFE, etc.)





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London Eye

Resource 2 - South Skyline

BATTERSEA POWER STATION:



RED PHONE BOX:



ST THOMAS' HOSPITAL:

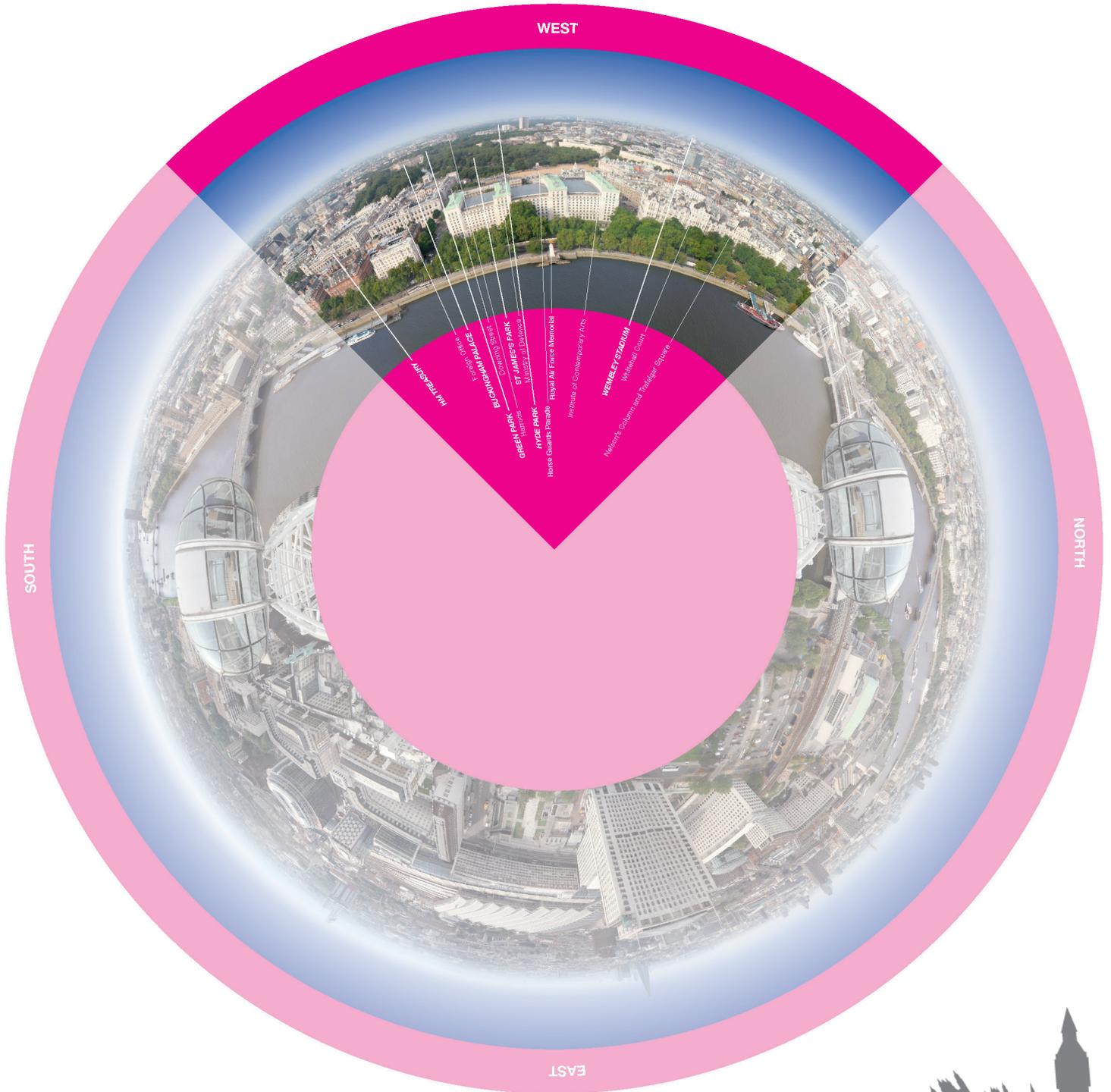




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London Eye

Resource 2 - West Skyline





Resource 2 - West Skyline

HM TREASURY

- What do you think happens at the Treasury? (Where the nation's finances are administered)
- Underground at the back of the building is where Churchill and his Cabinet met during WW2 to avoid the bombs falling on London – Cabinet War Rooms

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

- This was the monarch's official London residence since the start of the Victorian era (1837). How many rooms do you think there are? (775)
- What does it mean when the flag is flying? (She's at home)
- Tourists gather outside the palace at 11:30am – what do they want to see? (The Changing of the Guard)

GREEN PARK, ST JAMES'S PARK AND HYDE PARK

- Three of London's parks make up two miles of green space – can you name any of these parks?
- Green Park was created by the King who had 6 wives – who was this? (Henry VIII)
- It was popular for duels (which was banned in St. James'), ballooning and fireworks
- He also created St. James' but as a hunting ground by draining the marsh land
- This park has a population of famous birds, originally given to Charles II – which bird species is this? (Pelicans)
- Hyde Park was originally a private hunting ground but then opened to the public in 1637 by Charles I
- The Great Exhibition of 1851 in the Crystal Palace was held here to showcase Victorian inventions

WEMBLEY STADIUM

- How many seats do you think it has? (90,000)
- England's national stadium, opened in 2007
- Why did the designers choose the shape and structure we see today?
- Aim of the project was to design and build a state-of-the-art stadium unlike no other in the world

