

Reading: The Tower of London

Nick is on holiday in London, and he has already visited many interesting places. Today, he and his parents are in the Tower.



1 Bob Collowan, [CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

William the Conqueror, a king of England, told his people to build a fortress¹ to protect² London and the king. In the following years, the Kings of England added new walls and buildings.

Many kings lived in the Tower. They also used it as a prison³ and they kept important things in there – for example the Crown Jewels. Many authors wrote about these jewels and many people

tried to steal them.

The kings also kept animals in the Tower. Lions, polar bears and elephants lived in small cages. Unfortunately, the people who had to look after them didn't know much about wild animals. Often they got the wrong food and they died early. Today, eight ravens⁴ are the only animals in the tower. A legend says that the kingdom will end when there are no ravens left in the building.



2 Philippe Kurlapski. "Corvus corax London". Licensed under CC BY 1.0 via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Nick likes the legends and scary stories about the Tower. People have seen ghosts there – for example the ghost of Anne Boleyn. She was a queen of England and she was executed⁵ in 1536. Nick hopes he will see a ghost, too, before they leave the building and go back to their hotel.

¹ **fortress**: Festung ²to **protect**: schützen ³ **prison**: Gefängnis ⁴ **raven**: Rabe ⁵to **execute**: hinrichten

EXERCISE 1 About Nick. True, wrong or not in the text?	T	W	NT
a) Nick is staying at a hotel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) He is twelve years old.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) He is fascinated by the Crown Jewels.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) He is scared he might see a ghost.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) His parents are with him.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EXERCISE 2 About the tower. True or wrong?	T	W
a) It was William the Conqueror's idea to build the Tower.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) The animals in the Tower had a good life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Anne Boleyn was killed by someone who was trying to steal the Crown Jewels.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) There are no animals in the Tower today.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) People say there are ghosts in the Tower.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) You can see lions and polar bears in the Tower.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) People added new parts to the building from time to time.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) The kings of England didn't live in the Tower.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) A legend says that England will end when there are more than eight ravens in the Tower.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

EXERCISE 3 Correct the wrong sentences from **EXERCISES 1** and **2**.

Pictures:

Philippe Kurlapski. "Corvus corax London". Licensed under CC BY 1.0 via Wikimedia Commons:
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Corvus_corax_London.jpg#/media/File:Corvus_corax_London.jpg

Bob Collowan, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons:
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tower_of_London_viewed_from_the_River_Thames.jpg

Lösungen:

EXERCISE 1 About Nick. True, wrong or not in the text?	T	W	NT
a) Nick is staying in a hotel.	x		
b) He is twelve years old.			x
c) He is fascinated by the crown jewels.			x
d) He is scared he might see a ghost.		x	
e) His parents are with him.	x		

EXERCISE 2 About the tower. True or wrong?	T	W
a) It was William the Conqueror's idea to build the Tower.	x	
b) The animals in the Tower had a good life.		x
c) Anne Boleyn was killed by someone who was trying to steal the Crown Jewels.		x
d) There are no animals in the Tower today.		x
e) People say there are ghosts in the Tower.	x	
f) You can see lions and polar bears in the Tower.		x
g) People added new parts to the building from time to time.	x	
h) The kings of England didn't live in the Tower.		x
i) A legend says that England will end if there are more than eight ravens in the tower.		x

EXERCISE 3

1. d) He isn't scared. He hopes he will see a ghost.
2. b) The animals didn't have a good life. They lived in small cages and often died early because they didn't get the right food.
2. c) She wasn't killed by a robber, she was executed.
2. d) There are eight ravens in the tower today.
2. f) You can't see lions and polar bears in the Tower today. The kings used to keep these animals in there, but today there are only ravens.
- 2.h) The kings did live in the Tower.
- 2.i) A legend says that England will end if there aren't any ravens left in the tower.