

# Looking back at London's long history

From its humble origins as a Roman trading post almost 2,000 years ago, London has expanded to become Europe's largest city and a thriving metropolis of around eight million people

London's iconic **Houses of Parliament** and "**Big Ben**" clock tower. Westminster has been seat of English government since 11th century

## ROMAN LONDON

■ **AD 50:** Romans establish **Londinium** around seven years after invading Britain. Bridge built across **River Thames** close to site of present-day **London Bridge**

■ **61:** London destroyed in revolt against Roman rule by **Boudica**, Queen of **ICeni** tribe. Town quickly rebuilt after rebellion crushed



Roman emperor **Claudius** invaded Britain in AD 43

Boudica statue

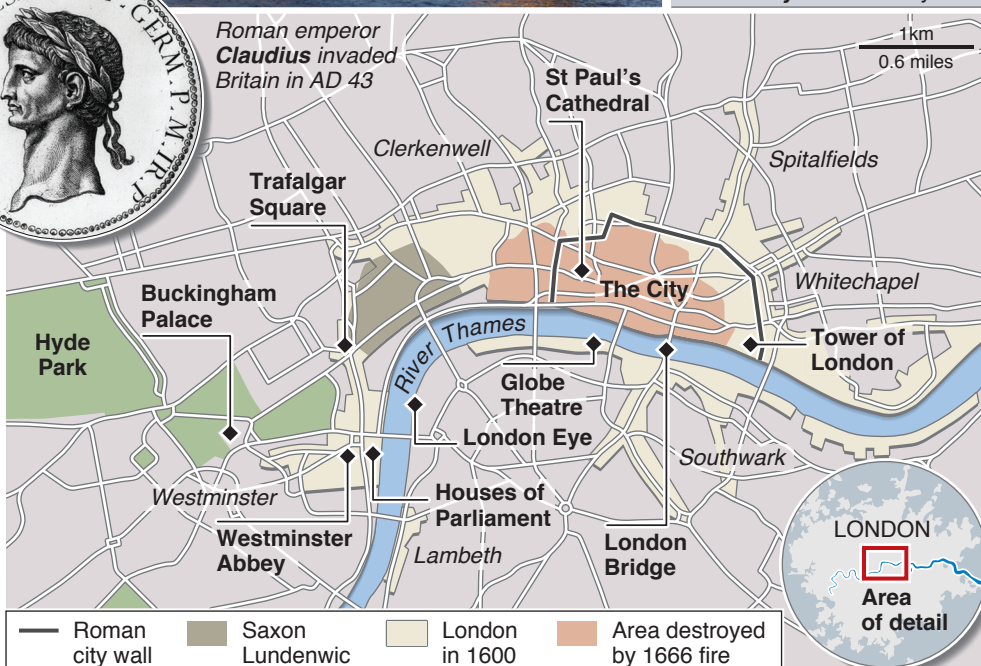


■ **100:** London becomes capital of Roman Britain. Population about 60,000

■ **200:** Defensive wall built, defining area now called "**the City**" – London's famous financial district

■ **c. 400:** Romans leave Britain as Empire collapses. London falls into decline

Alfred the Great



## SAXON LONDON

■ **450:** Anglo-Saxon settlers arrive in Britain. Saxon London, named **Lundenwic**, established (c. 600) west of Roman city on site of present-day **Covent Garden**

■ **9th century:** Following Viking attacks, Saxon king **Alfred the Great** resettles Londoners within Roman city and repairs defensive walls

■ **1042:** **Edward the Confessor** crowned king, builds first abbey and palace at Westminster – making London most important city in England

Seal of **Edward the Confessor**



Westminster Abbey

## MEDIEVAL LONDON

■ **1066:** Normans invade Britain. **William the Conqueror** crowned king at Westminster Abbey

■ **1078:** Work begins on stone fortress later known as **Tower of London** (below)



■ **1086:** London's population about 18,000 at time of **Domesday Book** survey

## MODERN ERA

■ **1571:** Original **Royal Exchange** – London's first stock market – opened by **Queen Elizabeth I**

■ **1599:** **Globe Theatre** built – stages **Shakespeare's** plays. Burns down in 1613

New Globe Theatre



■ **1665:** **Great Plague** kills one-fifth of Londoners – about 60,000 people

■ **1666:** **Great Fire of London** destroys 80 percent of buildings in City, including **St Paul's Cathedral**



■ **18th century:** London grows rapidly with advent of Industrial Revolution. **Buckingham Palace** (1703), new St Paul's (1711) and several Thames bridges built

■ **19th century:** World's largest city during reign of **Queen Victoria** (pop. 2.35m at time of **Great Exhibition** in 1851). Rapid growth leads to millions living in slums. Plight of poor highlighted by writer **Charles Dickens** (right)



■ **20th century:** Two world wars slow pace of growth. Some 30,000 Londoners killed by German bombing during **World War II**. Postwar immigration turns London into multicultural hub

Olympic rings on Tower Bridge



■ **2000:** **London Eye** opens

■ **2005:** 52 people killed in July 7 terrorist attacks

■ **2012:** **Queen Elizabeth II** celebrates **Diamond Jubilee**. London hosts third Olympics (others in 1908 and 1948)



■ **1500:** London's population about 50,000