

Visit the Tower of London!

Landeskunde und Grammatik für die Klasse 7

Ein Beitrag von Martina Waldron, Warnau

Der *Tower of London* gehört nicht nur zu den berühmtesten Sehenswürdigkeiten Londons, sondern war Schauplatz für historische Ereignisse und Mittelpunkt außergewöhnlicher Legenden. Des Weiteren zeugt er von der geschichtlichen Entwicklung des Landes und beherbergt heute als Museum wichtige historische Artefakte.

Anhand eines Informationstextes lernen Ihre Schüler die Geschichte und Bedeutung des *Tower* im Laufe der Jahrhunderte kennen. Mithilfe vielseitiger Materialien vertiefen sie nicht nur ihr landeskundliches Wissen, sondern auch ihr Leseverstehen sowie ihren Wortschatz. Sie üben das *simple past* sowie *passive voice* und setzen die englische Sprache kreativ in einer Schreibaufgabe ein.



© Colourbox

Thematisieren Sie, passend zur Lehrbucheinheit, die Geschichte des *Tower of London* und wiederholen zugleich die Grammatik.

Mit vielen Zusatzmaterialien
auf CD!

Das Wichtigste auf einen Blick

Kompetenzen:

- Wissen zur Landeskunde vertiefen
- thematischen Wortschatz erweitern
- anhand eines Sachtexts das Leseverstehen trainieren
- die Schreibkompetenz in einer kreativen Schreibübung fördern
- bereits bekannte grammatische Formen (*simple past*, *passive voice*) wiederholen und festigen

Dauer:

4 Schulstunden (+ ggf. Präsentationen)

Niveau:

Klasse 7

Einbettung:

Red Line 3, Unit 2

English G21, B3, Unit 1

Welcome to the Tower of London

M 1



© Colourbox



© Martina Waldron

The history of the Tower of London

Read the text and find out about the Tower's turbulent history.

The White Tower

The history of the Tower of London starts in 1066 when William, Duke of Normandy¹, better known as William the Conqueror², took over³ Anglo-Saxon England. Soon William started to build castles all over the country to demonstrate his power in his new kingdom. Among these fortifications⁴ was the White Tower in London. It is the first of the twenty towers which belong to what is called the "Tower of London" nowadays. The shape and size of the Tower changed over the course of the centuries⁵, as well as its purpose⁶.



The White Tower was completed in 1078. It was the strongest Norman fortification in the whole country. It was meant to protect⁷ the people and the Royal Family against attacks and to dominate the people of London.

The Tower's role over the years

Before the Middle Ages, the Tower was mainly used for military as well as a residence⁸ for the king and queen. But from the 14th until the early 19th century, the Royal Mint⁹, the Record Office¹⁰, the Crown Jewels¹¹ as well as the King's Menagerie were also housed in the Tower.



A menagerie is a collection of wild and exotic animals like a zoo. Today, statues remind visitors of the animals that once lived in the Tower.

Although the Tower had already been used as a prison in the 13th century, its really gruesome¹² and bloody history started in the 15th century. It became a scene of torture¹³, murder and executions¹⁴. Victims¹⁵ were not only criminals but also unpopular¹⁶ aristocrats¹⁷ and even members of the Royal Family. They were imprisoned¹⁸ and killed because of power, political doings and religious intolerance. It was a macabre tradition of the time to portray¹⁹ people just shortly before their execution. Many of these paintings²⁰ have survived and it is not surprising that the people they show always look very pale²¹!

In the 17th century, the Tower was not just used as a prison, but more and more as a military base and storage²² for weapons²³. During this period, another long-standing tradition began: the public display of the Crown Jewels.



The Crown Jewels can be visited at the Tower of London.

1 **Duke of Normandy:** der Herzog der Normandie – 2 **William the Conqueror:** Wilhelm der Eroberer – 3 **to take over sth.:** die Macht über etw. übernehmen – 4 **fortification:** die Festungsanlage – 5 **over the course of the centuries:** im Laufe der Jahrhunderte – 6 **purpose:** der Zweck – 7 **to protect:** beschützen – 8 **residence:** der Wohnsitz – 9 **the Royal Mint:** die Königlich Britische Münzanstalt – 10 **Record Office:** das Staatsarchiv – 11 **Crown Jewels:** die Kronjuwelen – 12 **gruesome:** grausam – 13 **torture:** die Folter – 14 **execution:** die Hinrichtung – 15 **victim:** das Opfer – 16 **unpopular:** unbeliebt – 17 **aristocrat:** der/die Adelige – 18 **to imprison:** inhaftieren – 19 **to portray:** porträtieren – 20 **painting:** das Gemälde – 21 **pale:** blass – 22 **storage:** das Lager – 23 **weapon:** die Waffe

M 3

The legend of the ravens

It is unknown at what exact point the ravens²⁴ became a part of the Tower but there is evidence²⁵ from the 17th century. The legend says that should the ravens ever leave the Tower of London a great disaster will befall England.



© Thinkstock/Stock

Today, six to seven ravens still live on the Tower grounds²⁶.

The Tower as tourist attraction

Starting in 1660, people could visit the Tower and since 1901, half a million visitors were coming each year. Today, the Tower of London is one of the world's major tourist attractions with 2.5 million visitors yearly. They come to admire²⁷ the beauty of the buildings, the Crown Jewels, an exhibition²⁸ of weapons and suits of armour²⁹.



© maritus images/Steve Vidler

You can see weapons and suits of armour at the Tower of London.

The Yeoman Warders³⁰

Traditional Yeoman Warders, better known as "Beefeaters", tell tourists about the history of the building and give tours of the Tower. In the Middle Ages, they guarded³¹ the Tower and royal prisoners. But today, the modern Yeoman Warders not only keep an eye on³² the buildings and the safety³³ of the visitors but also work as tourist guides.

By the way, the nickname "Beefeater" dates back to medieval³⁴ times when the king's bodyguard had to taste his food (often beef) to make sure it wasn't poisoned³⁵ before the king ate it himself! Nowadays, the Yeoman Warders are still extraordinary members of the Queen's bodyguard.



© Martina Waldron

The Yeoman Warders live with their families within the Tower walls – however, they do not have to taste the food anymore!

24 **raven:** der Rabe – 25 **evidence:** der Beweis – 26 **on the Tower grounds:** auf dem Towergelände – 27 **to admire sth.:** etw. bewundern – 28 **exhibition:** die Ausstellung – 29 **suit of armour:** die Ritterrüstung – 30 **Yeoman Warders:** die Warter im *Tower of London* – 31 **to guard:** bewachen – 32 **to keep an eye on sth./so.:** etw./jmdn. im Auge behalten; auf etw./jmdn. aufpassen – 33 **safety:** die Sicherheit – 34 **medieval:** mittelalterlich – 35 **to poison:** vergiften

Imagine you are ... – creative writing

M 7

How do you imagine the Tower? Be creative and write about it.

Task: A letter to your grandmother

Imagine you are on a trip to London and you have just visited the Tower. There, you saw the torture chamber, the exhibitions of weapons and suits of armour, the Crown Jewels and, of course, the Yeoman Warders in their traditional uniforms. Now you want to write a letter to your grandmother and tell her what you saw and how much you liked it.



© Thinkstock/Pixland

The following words might help you:

exciting – to visit – wonderful – interesting – to be afraid – medieval uniform – Beefeaters – ravens – to like – to do a guided tour – walls – famous – to see – the Royal Mint – the Crown Jewels – the King's Menagerie – the Record Office



How do you imagine the Tower? Be creative and write about it.

Task: Yeoman Warder for one day

Imagine you are one of the 40 Yeoman Warders who live at the Tower of London. Write a diary entry and explain what a typical day at the Tower looks like. Write about the traditions and history of the Yeoman Warders and their job today.



© mauritius images/Steve Vidler

The following words and phrases might help you:

the White Tower – Norman fortification – Middle Ages/medieval times – guided tours – ravens – tourists – prisoners – Beefeaters – to taste the king's food – bodyguards – to guard – suits of armour – great disaster – history – museum – visitors