

LONDON *where the tourists go*

1 London is not only the British capital, it is also one of famous cities in the world. Millions of tourists go there visit the many historical sights. Let's do our own tour can start in Westminster, at the Houses of Parliament. Do you know what Big Ben is? Is it the name of the tower, the clock on the tower, or the big bell inside the clock tower? Well, people sometimes call the clock and even the tower Big Ben, but it is really the name of the huge bell. (It weighs 13 ½ tons.) You can hear Big Ben on the BBC World Service in almost every country in the world.

2 Now let's go along Whitehall to Trafalgar Square. Then we can walk along the Strand and Fleet Street to St. Paul's Cathedral, where



Prince Charles and Princess Diana got married in 1981. St. Paul's is the second largest church in the world. Christopher Wren built it after the Great Fire of London in 1666. When you climb to the top of St. Paul's, you have got a wonderful view over London. From the top of St. Paul's to the ground it is 365 feet — one foot for every day of the year.

From St. Paul's it is not very far to the Tower of London. The Tower is over 900 years old and is one of

the most famous castles in Britain. It was once a royal palace, the home of the kings and queens of England. Later it was a prison and a place for many executions. Some people say there are still ghosts in the Tower. Today it is a museum and over two million people visit it every year. They come to see the Crown Jewels and the Beefeaters.

4 Now let's go back to the West End and take the Underground to Baker Street. From there it is a one-minute walk to Madame Tussaud's with its wax figures of kings, queens, pop stars, politicians and — in the Chamber of Horrors — famous criminals. (Many years ago a criminal even sent his clothes to Madame Tussaud's on the day of his execution.) And when you see some of the big

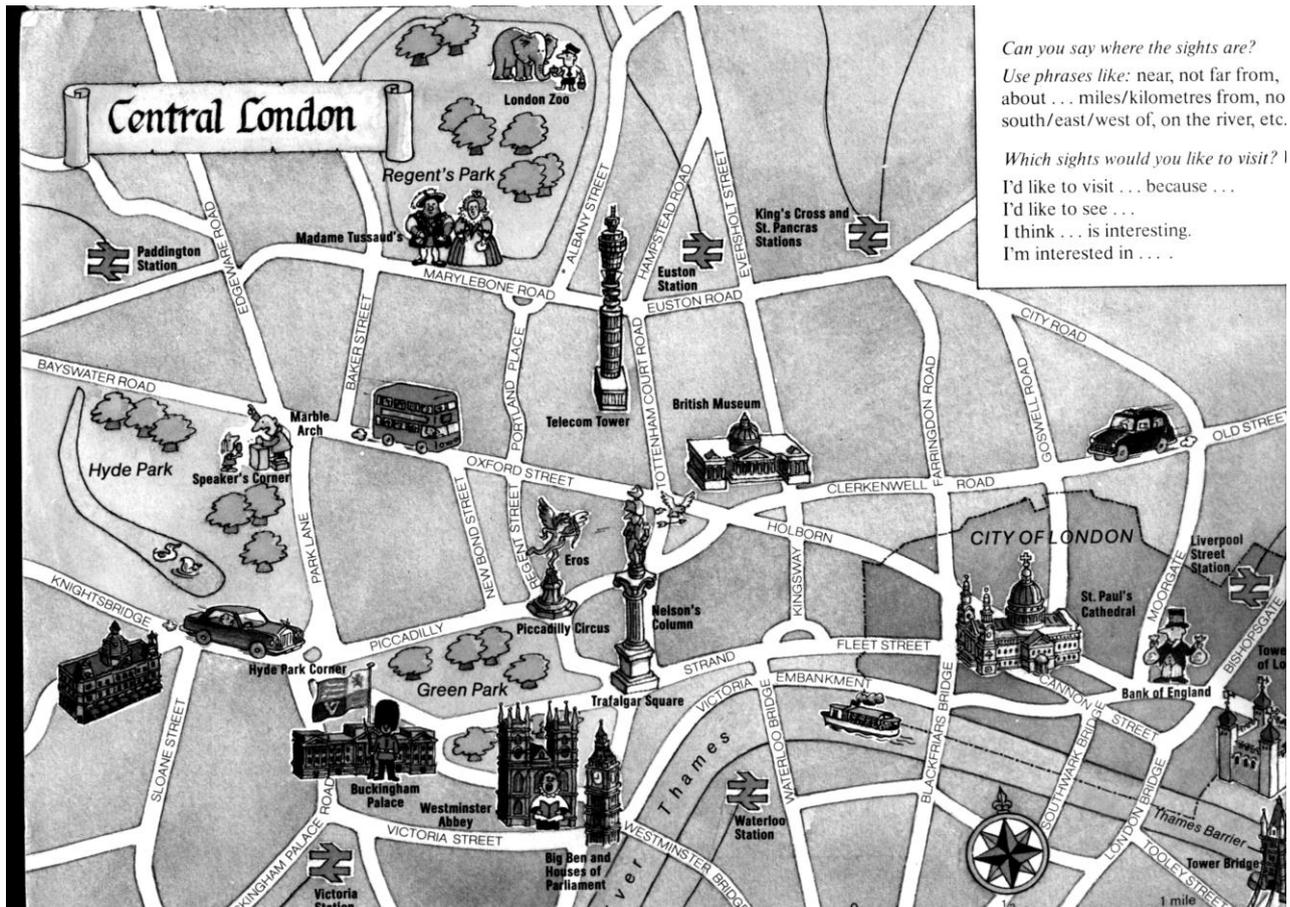
the biggest and most every year. They of London. We



names from history, you will be surprised how small many of them really were!

5 Finally, perhaps you'd like to go on a boat trip along the River Thames? From Westminster Pier, for example, you can travel down past the Tower and Greenwich to one of the most unusual tourist attractions in the world: the Thames Flood Barrier. In the past there have been several terrible floods in London. They can happen when the wind pushes the sea up the river towards London. There are walls along the river, but

these are not high enough to protect the city. In 1928 fourteen people died when the water came over the walls in Westminster. A really bad flood might kill thousands of people and damage many of the historical buildings. Londoners now hope that the huge Thames Barrier will hold back the water so that this will never happen.



Can you say where the sights are?
 Use phrases like: near, not far from, about ... miles/kilometres from, no south/east/west of, on the river, etc.
 Which sights would you like to visit? I'd like to visit ... because ...
 I'd like to see ...
 I think ... is interesting.
 I'm interested in ...