**12. London and other British cities**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

* London is the capital city of  the United Kingdom.
* It is located on the Thames River in the southeast part of England
* London has a diverse range of people and cultures, its population is 8 million people (10 million with suburbs)
* London includes the city of London and 32 boroughs *(boroughs – městské samosprávní okresy v Londýně),* London is divided into five districts
* Seat of Monarchy, Parliament, Goverment and the Supreme Court
* Central London = The City of London - the oldest part of London
* The East End - many new imigrant groups live and many working people
* The West End - theatres, beautiful residential areas, great parks…

**HISTORY**

* Founded by the Romans around 43 AD.
* In 1665 - great [plague](http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/sci/A0839266.html)
* In 1666 - great fire - lasted five days and virtually destroyed the city.   
  By the 14th century - London became the political capital of England  
  The reign of Elizabeth I. – centre of England's Renaissance culture.
* Many buildings of central London were destroyed in air raids during World War II.
* Nowadays, London is a major financial, political, fashion, cultural and educational centre

**SIGHTS**Tower Bridge is a bascule bridge *(zvedací most)* in London, over the River Thames. It is close to the Tower of London, from which it takes its name. It has become an iconic symbol of London. Construction started in 1886 and took eight years. Tower Bridge can open in the middle and let large ships go through.  
  
Buckingham Palace is the official London residence and main workplace of the British monarch. Located in the City of Westminster, the palace is a setting for state occasions.   
Outside the place the Changing of the Guard ceremony takes place. It is one of the biggest London's parades.  
  
London Eye  
The London Eye is a giant wheel situated on the bank of the Thames. The entire structure is 135m tall. The wheel has 32 passenger capsules.

Palace of Westminster - commonly known as the Houses of Parliament after its tenants. It is the meeting place of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the two houses of the Parliament of the UK. Part of UNESCO World Heritage.

Westminster Abbey is a large, mainly gothic church, in the City of Westminster.  
It was was constructed in the eleventh century by King Edward the Confessor. It is the crowning place of English monarchs and several generations of English sovereigns are buried here. Famous english persons are buried here too, f.e. Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin. There are also many memorials of famous politicians, scientists, and poets. Place for royal weddings.

Tower of London is a castle on the north bank of the river Thames in central London. The castle was used as a prison .Tower of London was built at the time of William the Conqueror. We can see there the crown jewels.

Trafalgar Square was named after Admiral Nelson's victory over Napoleon at Battle of Trafalgar (1805). Nelson's statue surrounded by four lions is situated here.   
The National Gallery also lies here.

Big Ben is a nickname for the great bell of the clock at the north end of the Palace of Westminster in London, and often extended to refer to the clock and the clock tower, officially named Elizabeth Tower. It is believed to be one of the most accurate clocks in the world.

St. Paul's Cathedral is one of the largest cathedrals in the world. It is a masterpiece of the architect Sir Christopher Wren and was built after the Great Fire in 1666.  
In 1981 Charles and Diana were married here.

**SYMBOLS OF LONDON**  
Red double-deckers, old fashioned black taxis, red phone-boxes, the London Underground (or tube) is first underground railway for passengers in the world.

**SPORT IN LONDON**

**Olympic Games in London**

From July to August 2012 there were Summer Olympic Games, officially known as the London 2012 Olympic Games. London became the first city in the world that hosted the Olympic Games three times, because there were the Olympic games also in 1908 and 1948.

[**Arsenal**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arsenal_F.C.)**,** [**Chelsea**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chelsea_F.C.) **and** [**Tottenham Hotspur**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tottenham_Hotspur_F.C.) are London's most successful football teams in domestic and European competitions.   
In London we can find [**Wembley Stadium**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wembley_Stadium), England's [national stadium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_stadium).

**Wimbledon** is a district in southwest London. It is home to the [Wimbledon Tennis Championships](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Championships,_Wimbledon).

**OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST:   
Madame Tussaud’s museum**. In this museum are wax figurines of many famous personalities. In the **Hyde Park** is the Speakers Corner.  
In West-end of London is also **Harrod‘s**. It‘s the shopping centre, where you can buy everything. It is the most famous shopping centre in the world. The next favourite places for shopping are the **Oxford street, Regent street** and **Piccadilly**.  
In the West-end is also **Mayfair**, the district of rich persons of London. In the **Park Lane** are the most expensive hotels in town. In **Covent Garden** is the **Opera House**.The next famous street is **Whitehall**, where are situated the ministries.

**OTHER BRITISH CITIES**

**EDINBURGH**

* Located in the south east of Scotland, the capital of Scotland
* Beautiful city with its large collection of Medieval and Georgian buildings
* Edinburgh Castle built on a piece of volcanic rock

**CARDIFF**

* The capital city of Wales
* Centre of the Welsh culture
* Cardiff is known for Cardiff Castle, the National Museum Gallery of Wales, Millenium Stadium, and Cardiff Bay.

**BRIGHTON**

* Located on the south coast of England by the seaside
* is known as a student town and is full of young people, so you'll notice many schools, music stores, vegetarian restaurants, great pubs, fish and chip shops and a couple of cool malls
* Famous for Brighton Pier and the Royal Pavilion

OXFORD

* There is the oldest university in England.
* Oxford University consists of 38 independent colleges.
* The largest is called Christ Church.
* The city is situated at the meeting of two rivers- The Thames and The Cherwell.
* There are many museums, libraries, galleries.

**CAMBRIDGE**

* Cambridge is a university town with 30 colleges
* Second oldest university in England
* Firstly only for men, later also for women.
* There is very famous bridge over the river called Bridge of Sighs.
* There is a long history of rivalry between Oxford and Cambridge, big competition

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON**

* Small, but very popular and visited city
* This city was founded by german tribe of Saxons.
* William Shakespeare was born here
* In Holy Trinity Church you can see the grave of Shakespeare, his wife and other members of his family. There is the Royal Shakespeare Theatre where the Shakepeare’s plays have been played.

**LIVERPOOL**

* This city is connected with popular music
* In Liverpool the music group Beatles was formed.
* Liverpool was one of the biggest centres of industry, but today Liverpool one of the poorest parts of England.
* Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral, completed in 1978, is the largest in the UK and the fifth largest in the world

**BATH**

* Situated 150 km west of London
* The Romans founded this city
* Famous for spa, one of the most beautiful in the United Kingdom.
* It's a World Heritage city, full of roman ruins, Bath abbey
* Natural hot springs
* Theatres, museums, parks aroldHa