

BIG BEN

The Palace of Westminster, also called the Houses of Parliament, lies on the banks of the River Thames in the City of Westminster, London. It has been part of British history for over 1,000 years. The Palace was the principal royal residence until it was largely destroyed by fire in 1512 and it then became the permanent home of Parliament (the lawmaking group of the United Kingdom).

One of the Palace's most famous features is the clock tower (now known as the Elizabeth Tower and more commonly referred to as Big Ben). Is Big Ben the clock tower? No, what people actually refer to when they say "Big Ben" is the great bell inside the tower that weighs 13.7 tons. The tower is 315 feet tall (imagine 21 London buses sitting on top of each other!). Big Ben chimes every hour, and smaller bells around it chime every 15 minutes.

DRAW A PICTURE:

LOCATION:

AGE:

WHAT IS "BIG BEN"?

HOW TALL IS THE CLOCK TOWER?

INTERESTING FACT:

RECOMMENDED READING

THIS IS LONDON
BY MIROSLAV ŠAŠEK

**THE TIGER
WHO CAME
TO TEA**
BY JUDITH KERR

**A BEAR
CALLED
PADDINGTON**
BY
MICHAEL
BOND

