

Knowledge Organiser for Year 2 – Small area of the UK study

Big question: What is it like to live in London?

National curriculum specification

- Understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the UK.
- Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to key human features including city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop
- Use maps, atlases, globes and computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.



Key facts/figures

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| Capital city of England | London |
| Continent | Europe |
| Currency | Pounds (GBP) |
| Seas | North Sea, Irish Sea, North Atlantic Ocean, English Channel |
| Borders | Wales, Scotland |
| Population | 9.1 million (2019) |
| Religion | 48.4% (Christianity), 12.4% (Muslim), 5% (Hindu), 1.8% (Jewish), 1.5% (Sikhism), 21% (No religion) |
| Language | English |

Key features and landmarks

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| River Thames | 215 miles long (longest in England, second longest in UK). Flows through Southern England including Oxford, Reading, Henley-on-Thames, Windsor and London. |
| Big Ben/ Houses of Parliament | Big Ben – the name of the bell inside the Elizabeth Tower. The tower was completed in 1859 and the clock started on 31 st May. The Houses of Parliament (Palace of Westminster) serves as the meeting place for the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Built in 1016, demolished in 1834 due to fire, and rebuilt 1840-76. |
| Tower of London | Founded by William the Conqueror around 1066 and has been used as a royal residency, prison and a repository for the crown jewels. |
| London Eye | The Millennium Eye, opened in 2000 and at 135 metres is the tallest observation wheel in Europe. |
| Buckingham Palace | London residence and administrative headquarters of the monarch. Built in 1703, located in the City of Westminster. 775 rooms and the largest private garden in London. |
| Trafalgar Square | A large, public space with 4 lions in the centre, surrounding Nelson's Column. |
| The Shard | Opened in 2003. A 95 storey skyscraper in Southwark. 309m tall, it |

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| | is the tallest building in the UK, the tallest building in the EU and 6 th tallest in Europe. |
| St Paul's Cathedral | Original site founded in 604AD, rebuilt by Christopher Wren in the 17 th century after the Great Fire of London. |
| Tower Bridge | Combined bascule and suspension bridge constructed between 1886 and 1894 and crosses the Thames to near the Tower of London. |
| Westminster Abbey | A large, gothic abbey church in the City of Westminster. The traditional place for coronations and a burial site for British monarchs. |
| Canary Wharf | The secondary central business district in London on the Isle of Dogs. One of the main financial districts in the UK and EU. |

Key vocabulary/Tier 3

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| Capital city | The city where the government sits. |
| City | A large town. |
| River | A large, natural stream of fresh water that flows into the sea or a lake. |
| Skyscrapers | A very tall building with many floors. |
| Tourist | A person who is visiting a place for pleasure and interest, particularly when they are on holiday. |

Key concepts

Large urban area – London is the largest urban area in the UK. London covers an area of 1579 square kilometres

Hills – London is mainly flat with the exception of Ludgate Hill, Corn Hill and Tower Hill.

Climate – London is classed as a temperate maritime climate, which features warm summers, cool winters, no wet or dry season and often moderate to strong winds.