

The History of London

Before AD 43

There were a few small settlements. The river Thames was an important tribal boundary.

AD 60

Londinium was destroyed by Boudicca and the Iceni. It was quickly rebuilt and began to grow.

AD 450 - AD 1066

The Anglo-Saxons built settlements outside the old Roman wall (the area we now know as The Strand). They called their city Lundenwic.

AD 1066 - AD 1485

The Normans built many forts in the London area, including the Tower of London. They also built London Bridge to replace several older bridges. It was the only bridge across the River Thames until 1739! By 1300, the population of London had grown to roughly 80 000.

AD 40

AD 1000

AD 43 - AD 60

The Roman settlement Londinium was built.

AD 60 - AD 410

Londinium grew rapidly, reaching a population of 60 000. It replaced Colchester as the capital of Roman Britain. A surrounding wall was built around what we now know as the City of London.

AD 800

Lundenwic was attacked by the Vikings and renamed Lundenburgh. The population at this time was around 15 000.

AD 1485 - AD 1603

In Tudor London, trading continued to develop as trading with Russia and the newly found America became important. Ships brought immigrant populations and the population increased again to 100 000. Some rich courtiers of Elizabeth I built country villas in Essex and Surrey. London was still quite small.

fortresses in the Tower of London Bridge to the east. It was the last of the old London on the north bank of the River Thames until the founding of London in 1600.

AD 1666

The Great Fire of London destroyed around 60% of the buildings in the city. Rich Londoners moved to build new homes in the West End, where the new Royal house, St James's Palace, was being built.

AD 1801 - AD 1900

London was the capital of the expanding British Empire. Trading and finance became important industries. Many famous landmarks were built, including Trafalgar Square, Big Ben, the Royal Albert Hall and Tower Bridge. The population was 6.7 million in 1900.

AD 1939 - AD 1945

During World War II, German bombers destroyed or damaged many houses and buildings during raids called the Blitz. Many children were evacuated from London to the countryside to protect them.

AD 1900

13
ing companies began to
Russia and the newly-
important.

grants, meaning the
ain to 250 000 by 1605.
Elizabeth I began to build
and Surrey, but the City of
wall.

AD 1665

Around 60 000 people died
as a result of the Great
Plague of 1665 (about
20% of the population).

AD 1762

King George III bought Buckingham
House (later renamed Buckingham
Palace) for the Royal Family. The
population of London increased to
1 million.

AD 1900 - 1939

The areas on the edge of London
(known as the suburbs) grew as
people moved out of the crowded
city into more spacious semi-
detached houses. The population
was 8.6 million.



AD 1950 - AD 1969

To replace houses destroyed during the Blitz and meet demand for new housing, many high-rise flats were built.

AD 2000

The Millenium Dome (now known as the O2 Arena) and the Millenium Wheel (now known as the London Eye) were opened. The Millenium Bridge was due to open but had to remain closed for 2 more years after a design problem caused it to sway when people walked across it.

AD 2000

AD 1970 - AD 1989

Trading by ships was less popular, and the Docks in London closed. The Docklands buildings were renovated to create more housing. The Thames Barrier was built to protect London from flooding caused by tidal surges. The population of London grew to 6.8 million.

AD 2012

The Olympic Games were held at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.