

A Chronology of changing London (notes).

Romans built the first city. Londinium. Initially very small - about the size of Hyde park.

Romans added a business centre known as a Basilica. A wall was built around the city to stop invasion. - this area is now known as the Square mile and is the business area of the city.

In the 7th century Old St Paul's Cathedral was built.

"London Bridge is falling down, Falling down, falling down, London Bridge is falling down, My fair lady." - this was probably due to Viking invasion in 11th century.

The Tower of London was built (has many different uses over time - a castle, a palace, a zoo and a weapons store, a mint (where coins are made) and a prison.

Through time, London grew inside of the walls. Lots of trades and shops developed over this time.

During the Tudor times, London was the centre of trade and government.

There was a population of 200 000 by 1600 AD. Three main areas of where people lived were:

1 within the old City walls, 2 in the nearby town of Westminster, and 3 on the south side of the river, in Southwark. Most of London as we know it today was still fields.

The dockyards were built along the river Thames and ships were sent to explore the world from here.

Shakespearean (around 1600AD) London involved building of many theatres including the Globe.

London was a busy city in 1666.

It was very crowded.

The streets were narrow and dusty.

There were many slums until the Great fire wiped out 80% of London.

The houses were made of wood and were very close together and the tops hung over the streets.

Inside their homes, people used candles for light and cooked on open fires.

A fire could easily get out of control

In those days, there were no fire engines or firemen to stop a fire from spreading.

Because of the fire, new rules were brought in - houses were only to be made from brick and stone and to be flat fronted. St Paul's cathedral was rebuilt.

There was a drastic re-design for London.

Many more churches were built and a memorial to great fire. New fire regulations brought in and insurance started.

As London grew it spread out and extended in to nearby towns and villages (Conurbation)

Beginning of 18th Century saw London become trading and financial centre. Goods were brought in from all over the world.

During Victorian London, (1830s-1900) it expanded massively

Railways were built linking much of England to the London. London centre of world trade and very powerful. More people were able to travel from outside of London to work.

Many of building we know of today were built in Victorian London -

The most famous is probably the Houses of Parliament, built in 1834 after a fire destroyed the original buildings. Many, many people live in houses built during Queen Victoria's reign. The population of London exploded and the boundaries of the City spread outward even further.

London had the first ever-underground railway (The Tube) which opened in 1862.

20th Century London

London continued to grow both in population and spread during the 20th Century. Between 1919 and 1939, built-up London doubled in size as the suburbs were extended yet again.

Big department stores were built in the early part of the Century (Harrods and Selfridges): these were the first of their kind!

There was a lot of damage to London during the Second World War, with some of the worst damage being done to the City, around (and including) St Paul's Cathedral. You can often tell where a bomb landed by the fact that there is a modern building surrounded by older (usually Victorian) buildings.

The London docklands (an area which used to be thriving with ships unloading merchandise from around the world) was being used less and less and in the 1980s they were closed down. The area became very rundown, housing was poor and there was a lot of unemployment. In the late 80s and 90s insurance developers came and built massive high rise office buildings (it was much cheaper here than in the centre). The area now is another key financial part of London. There are also now great transport links to this area by using the docklands railway.

Londoners marked the end of the century by building The Millennium Wheel, or "London Eye", a huge Ferris wheel overhanging the river Thames which gives far-reaching views of London. It is now one of the most popular tourist attractions in the city. A huge exhibition centre, the "Millennium Dome" (now the O2) was also built.