

Houses of Parliament



The Houses of Parliament in London.



2010



LONDON

0 500 m
0 0.3 mile



This is The Houses of Parliament



Commonly known as the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Palace is where their government meets to manage Britain's political affairs. The building itself was rebuilt, starting in 1840, on the site of important medieval remains. It's a stunning example of neo-Gothic architecture.

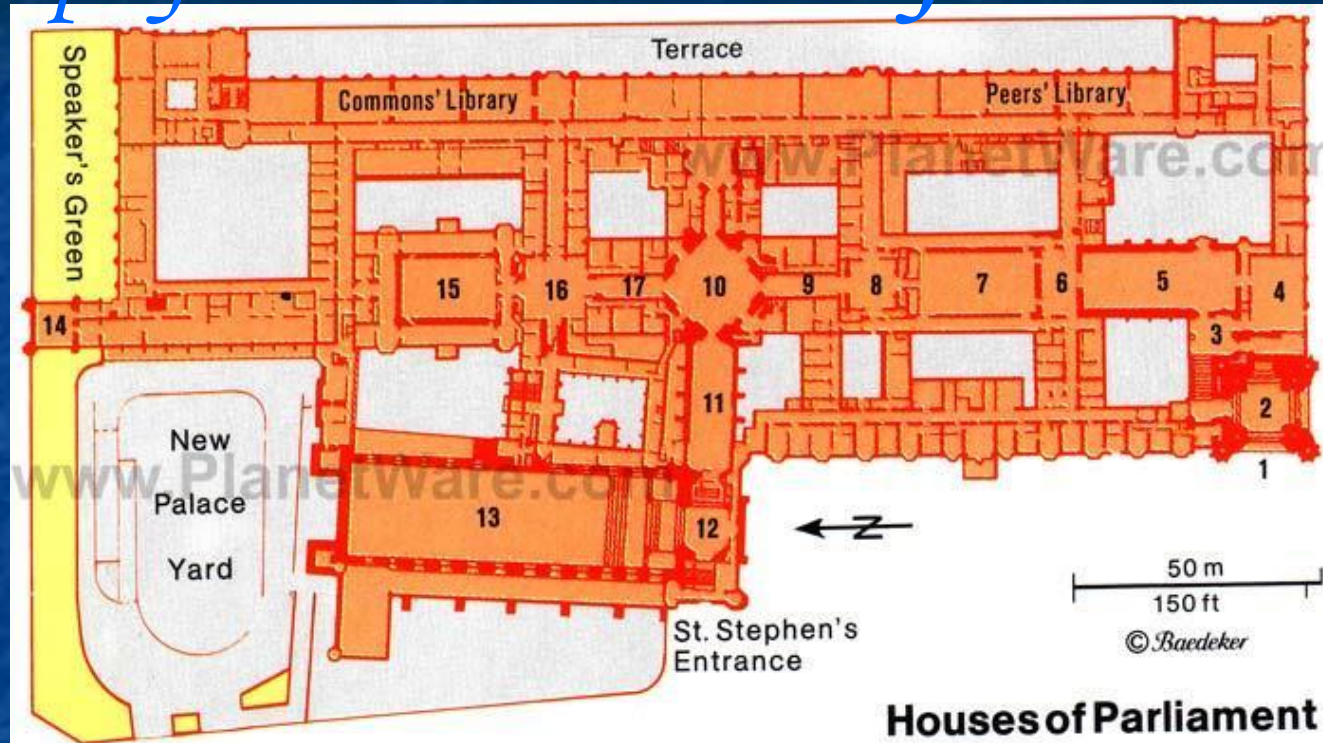
*Westminster Palace is located next to
the Thames River between the
Westminster and Lambeth Bridges, south
of Trafalgar Square.*

*Houses Of Parliament,
London, England (pictures)*



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vUas6VcbgY&NR=1>

Map of London Houses of Parliament.



- 1 Royal Entrance
- 2 Victoria Tower
- 3 Norman Porch
- 4 Robing Room
- 5 Royal Gallery
- 6 Prince's Chamber

- 7 House of Lords
- 8 Peers' Lobby
- 9 Peers' Corridor
- 10 Central Lobby
- 11 St Stephen's Hall

- 12 St Stephen's Porch
- 13 Westminster Hall
- 14 Clock Tower (Big Ben)
- 15 House of Commons
- 16 Commons' Lobby
- 17 Commons' Corridor

The Great Houses of Parliament
and
The Big Ben



Between the Clock Tower housing Big Ben, on the right, and Victoria Tower, on the far left, stands the three parts of Parliament: the Royal Apartments, the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9jrMjQACV0>

You can see the famous Big Ben clock tower on the east side of the building and during the summer you can tour the inside. Since this is a working government institution, all year there's the opportunity to sit in the public gallery during parliamentary debates - all entrance must be booked.



*Houses of Parliament
- London Photo
Gallery
The royal entrance.*

*Statue of Richard I, Richard the
Lion-hearted, in front of Westminster
Palace*



*Oliver Cromwell
Statue in
Cromwell Green.*



The Burghers of Calais statue in Victoria Tower Gardens with Victoria Tower in the background.



The Burghers of Calais statue in Victoria Tower Gardens. During the Hundred Years War, Calais had been taken by Edward III after a fierce resistance. The King agreed to spare the city if six prominent townspeople surrendered keys to the city and offered their lives. Dressed in sacks and wearing nooses, six volunteers presented themselves to Edward. Edward's queen pleaded and the six hostages were spared.



Rodin made the statue at the request of the mayor of Calais, and it shows the burghers as they set out to the English camp to confront the King. There is one version in Calais, but the one shown here is a second statue the National Art Collections Fund bought from Rodin in 1911 as a gift to the nation. Rodin chose Victoria Gardens for his work because of the backdrop of the soaring Gothic towers of Parliament

Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Westminster, London



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcwAMB-TMg8&NR=1>



The tower opposite the Big Ben is the Victoria Tower, built in 1860. The tower contains the records of both the House of Lords and the House of Commons since 1497. During the parliamentary year the Union Flag is hoisted on top of the 98m tall tower.

Big Ben

The Clock Tower at the Palace of Westminster is resplendent in the Victorian Gothic style, and stands 96.3 metres (316 feet) high.



The main bell, Big Ben (officially known as the Great Bell of Westminster), dates from 1858 and its soothing chimes were first heard on a BBC radio broadcast on the 31st December 1923.

Each of the four illuminated dials are 23 feet square, with the minute hand measuring up at 14 feet long.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23Z2n3wXMFQ&feature=related>

The bell was cast in 1858 and is said to be named either after the Commissioner of Works at the time, Benjamin Hall, or the champion heavyweight boxer Ben Caunt. The note from the bell is E. Big Ben weighs 13.8 tons (tonnes).

At the opposite end of the Palace from Big Ben is Victoria Tower, which holds the Parliamentary Archives. It was built for that purpose after the 1834 fire destroyed the Palace and most House of Commons records.

The Burning of the Houses of Parliament.



In 1834 a fire destroyed the Palace of Westminster, leaving only the Jewel Tower, the crypt and cloister of St. Stephens and Westminster Hall intact. After the fire, a competition was organized to create a new building for the two houses of parliament.

A design by Sir Charles Barry and his assistant Augustus Welby Pugin was chosen from 97 entries. They created a large but balanced complex in neo gothic style and incorporated the buildings that survived the fire. The whole complex was finished in 1870, more than 30 years after construction started. It includes the Clock Tower, Victoria Tower, House of Commons, House of Lords, Westminster Hall and the Lobbies.

The oldest part of the Houses of Parliament is Westminster Hall, dating back to 1097. The large hammer beam roof was built in the 14th century and replaced the original roof which was supported by two rows of pillars. The hall is one of Europe's largest unsupported medieval halls.



Westminster Abbey

This is one of Britain's finest Gothic buildings; a masterpiece of 13th-16th century architecture. Westminster Abbey is also the home to the shrine of St Edward the Confessor, the tombs of kings and queens, and countless memorials to the famous and the great.

Westminster Abbey

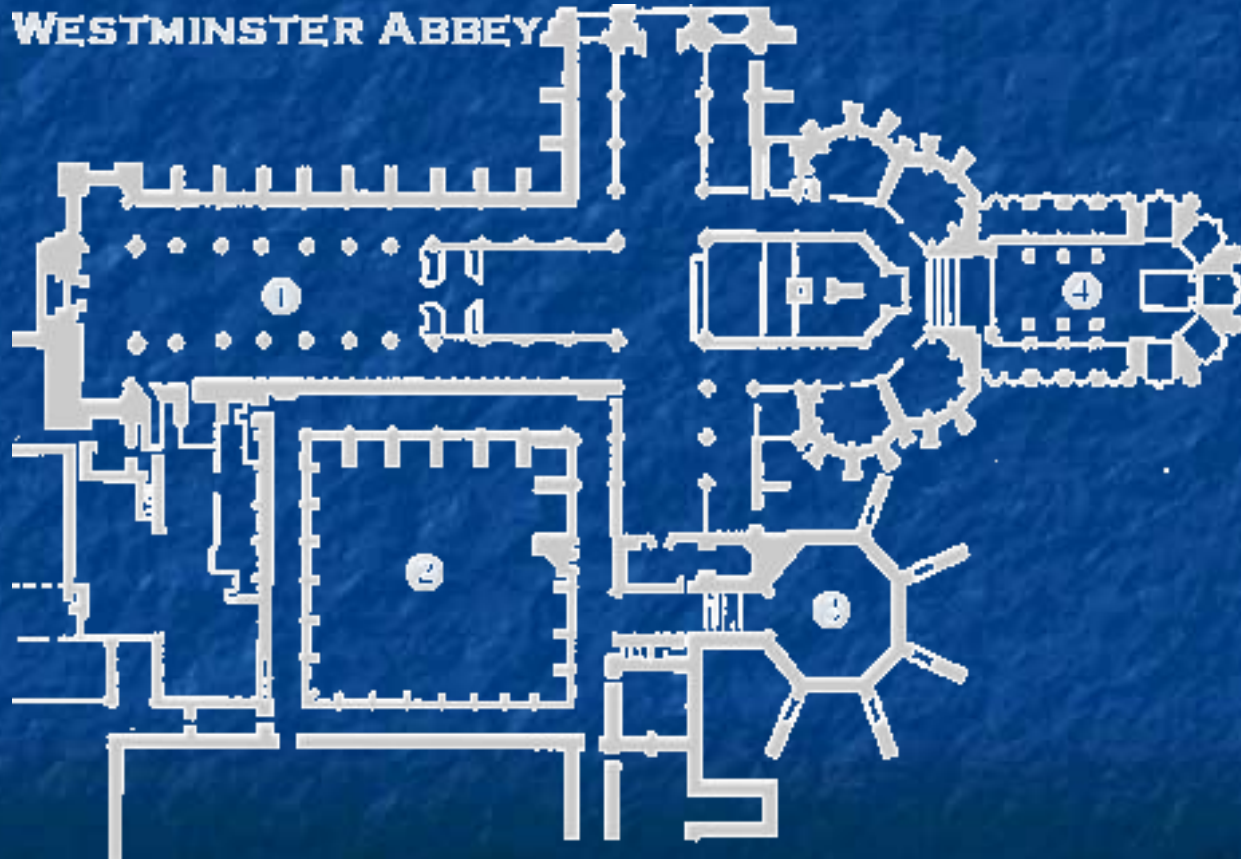
The abbey has been the setting for every Coronation since 1066 and for numerous other royal weddings and occasions, including the wedding of Princess Diana and Prince Charles. The church is open to tourists from Monday to Saturday with both audio tours and tours led by church officials.

Saint Margaret's Church



Founded in the 12th century, Saint Margaret's Church stands between Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament and is commonly called "the parish church of the House of Commons". You can enjoy numerous special services throughout the year and every Sunday the church welcomes people from around the world.

The Nave



1. *The abbey's nave is England's highest. In the nave you find the Grave of the Unknown Warrior, a World War I soldier who died on the battlefields in France and was buried here in French(!) soil. Nearby is a marble memorial stone for Winston Churchill. His body is not, like many fellow prime ministers, buried in the abbey, but in Bladon.*

2. *The Cloister was built in the 13th. It was completely rebuilt after it was destroyed by a fire in 1298. The cloister was used by the Benedictine monks for meditation and exercise.*
3. *The beautiful octagonal Chapter house is one of the largest of its kind in England. It has an original tile floor dating from 1250 and 14th century murals.*
4. *The Henry VII Chapel (aka Lady Chapel), built 1503-1512, is one of the most outstanding chapels of its time, with a magnificent vault. The chapel has a large stained glass window, the Battle of Britain memorial window. The window, which dates from 1947 and replaces an original window that was damaged during World War II, commemorates fighter pilots and crew who died during the Battle of Britain in 1940.*

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, left, sits with husband Prince Philip as she addresses the State Opening of Parliament in London on Wednesday



The houses of British Parliament, the House of Commons and the House of Lords, have met in the Palace of Westminster since around 1550. A royal palace has been on the site for around 1,000 years, but most of what you see dates from the mid 19th century when the Palace was rebuilt after a 1834 fire destroyed the medieval buildings. The oldest part of the Palace is Westminster Hall, built between 1097 and 1099 by William Rufus. Henry VIII was the last monarch to live there; he moved out in 1512.

St. Stephen's Entrance, where you can line up to get into the public gallery of the House of Commons.



In the middle of the 11th century, King Edward the Confessor had moved his court to the Palace of Westminster, situated on a central site near the river Thames.

In 1265 a parliament was created with two houses: the Lords and the Commons. The House of Lords met at the Palace of Westminster while the House of Commons did not have a permanent location.

House of Lords

*The House of Lords
sits to the side of the
Victoria Tower.*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtqWwClhW4E&feature=channel>

After King Henry VIII moved his court to Whitehall Palace in 1530, the House of Lords continued to meet in Westminster. In 1547 the House of Commons also moved here, confirming Westminster as the central seat of government, a position it still holds today.

House of Commons

*The House of Commons sits to the side of the
Clock Tower with Big Ben*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PGLqEyZcLc&NR=1>

The Commons Chamber, where the House of Commons meets, was destroyed during the Second World War but rebuilt in 1950 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in the same neo gothic style. The Commons Chamber's interior (with green colored benches) is rather austere compared to the lavishly decorated Lords Chamber (with red colored benches).

Over the centuries the balance of power has moved from the elitist House of Lords to the more agitated House of Commons, where the governing party and the opposition are seated opposite each other with exactly two sword lengths and one foot separating the two parties.

One of several lobbies in the Houses of Parliament is the Central Lobby where people can meet the Members of Parliament and persuade them to defend their interests.

Role of an MP

The people of the UK vote MPs to represent them in the Houses of Parliament. So what do MPs do?

A brief overview of the work of UK Members of Parliament (MPs), for 11-18 year olds.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iL3F-q1aLA&NR=1>

Overseas Visitors can no longer tour the Houses of Parliament during session. They can tour the Parliament during the period of the summer opening, however.

Overseas visitors can still attend debates in both houses. The Strangers' Gallery in the House of Commons is open to the public when the House is sitting.





A seat in the Gallery in the House of Lords is easier to procure. You can line up (queue) for tickets at the St. Stephen's entrance between Cromwell Green and the Old Palace Yard on St. Margaret Street.





*Palace of Westminster view
with the 91 m (300 ft) spire of
St. Stephen's Tower, also
called the Central Tower.*

*It's surprising how close
you can still get to
Parliament.*





*Ornate entrance,
Palace of Westminster.*

*Statue of Richard I of
England I (8 September
1157 - 6 April 1199), also
known as Richard the
Lionheart, or Cœur de Leon.*



Looking up the Victoria Tower, which is home to the Parliamentary Archives.



Statue of Oliver Cromwell. Near this spot in 1653 he was sworn in as Lord Protector.



Churchill statue, famously given a turf Mohican during the Mayday protests of 2000.



Houses of Parliament, St. Stephens Hall Interior, London, England.

The picture presents Houses of Parliament, St. Stephens Hall Interior, London, England.



You are looking at an educational picture of Houses of Parliament. This color photochrome print was taken between 1890 and 1900 in London, England.

The end

работа выполнена
учителем английского языка
Щулеповой Светланой Владимировной
МОУ СОШ №25
г.п. Ильинский
Раменского муниципального района
Московской области