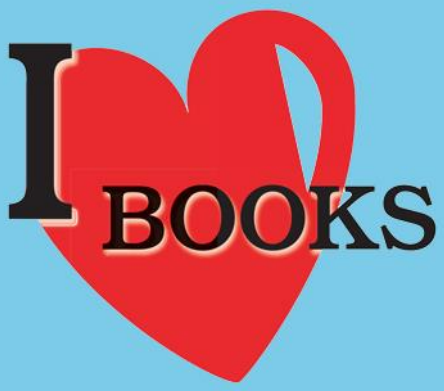


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Opening extract from

Big Picture Book of London

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Jenny Wren

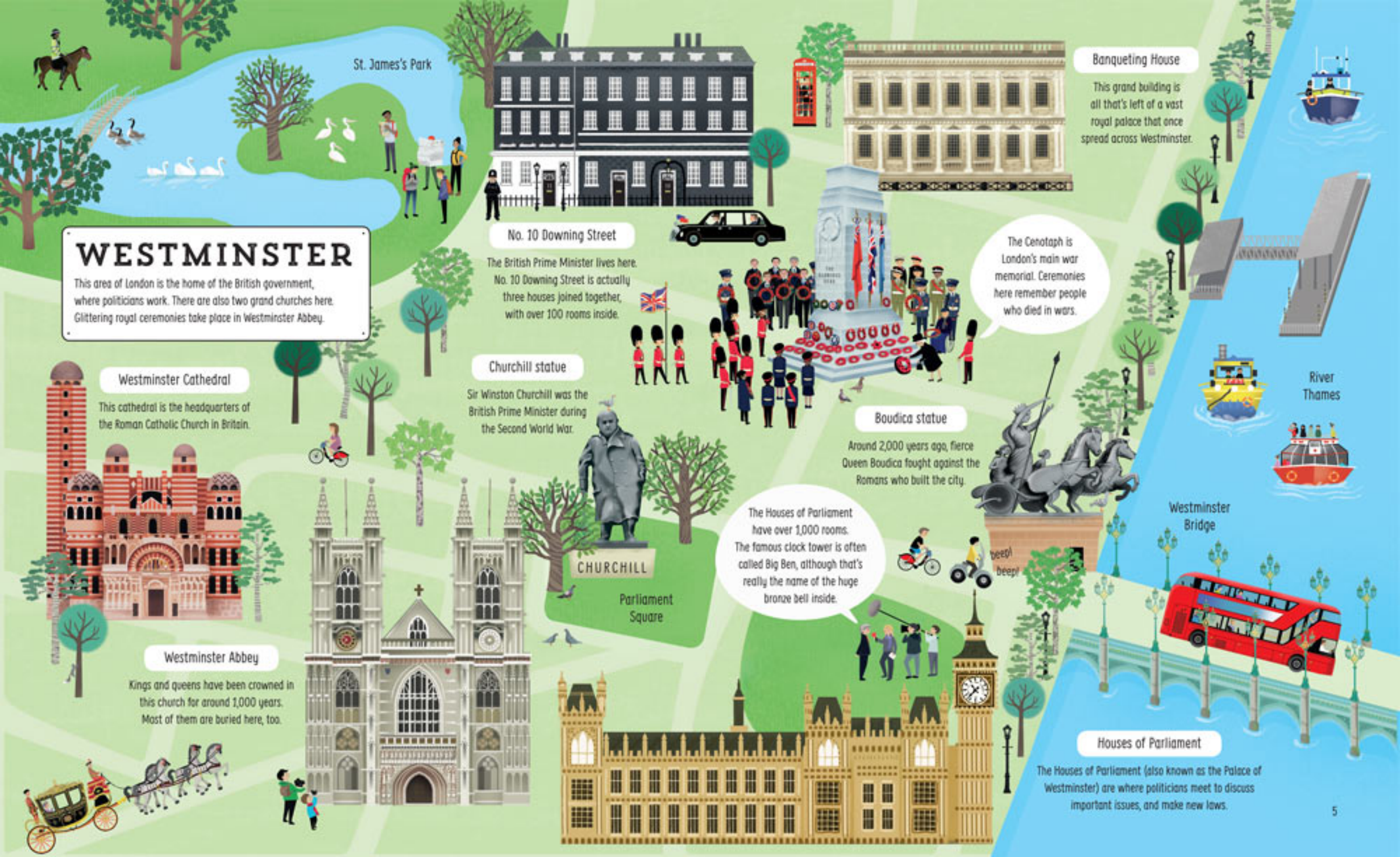
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St. James's Park
WESTMINSTER
This area of London is the home of the British government, where politicians work. There are also two grand churches here. Glittering royal ceremonies take place in Westminster Abbey.
No. 10 Downing Street
The British Prime Minister lives here. No. 10 Downing Street is actually three houses joined together, with over 100 rooms inside.
Banqueting House
This grand building is all that's left of a vast royal palace that once spread across Westminster.
The Cenotaph is London's main war memorial. Ceremonies here remember people who died in wars.
Churchill statue
Sir Winston Churchill was the British Prime Minister during the Second World War.
CHURCHILL
Parliament Square
Boudica statue
Around 2,000 years ago, fierce Queen Boudica fought against the Romans who built the city.
Westminster Cathedral
This cathedral is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church in Britain.
Westminster Abbey
Kings and queens have been crowned in this church for around 1,000 years. Most of them are buried here, too.
The Houses of Parliament have over 1,000 rooms. The famous clock tower is often called Big Ben, although that's really the name of the huge bronze bell inside.
River Thames
Westminster Bridge
Houses of Parliament
The Houses of Parliament (also known as the Palace of Westminster) are where politicians meet to discuss important issues, and make new laws.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

This palace is the official home of British kings and queens. Every morning, new soldiers come on duty here, in a ceremony called the Changing the Guard.

The Palace has almost 800 lavishly decorated rooms, as well as a chapel, a cinema and even its own post office.

On national days of celebration, members of the Royal Family sometimes gather on the Palace balcony, to wave at cheering crowds.

Some of the Palace's grandest rooms are open to the public to visit on tours.

During the ceremony, one regiment of guards takes over from another, to protect the Palace.

The Victoria Memorial remembers Queen Victoria, who lived in the Palace over 100 years ago.

A wide road called The Mall leads to the Palace. On special occasions, the road is lined with flags.

The Palace has over 600 staff, including gardeners, cooks and cleaners. There are even two people who look after its 300 clocks.

AROUND THE PALACE



If this flag, the Royal Standard, is flying over the Palace, it means the Queen is at home.

The Palace is guarded by 'foot guards' – soldiers in tall, furry helmets called bearskins.





The Queen's 'coat of arms' (family symbol) decorates the Palace gates.



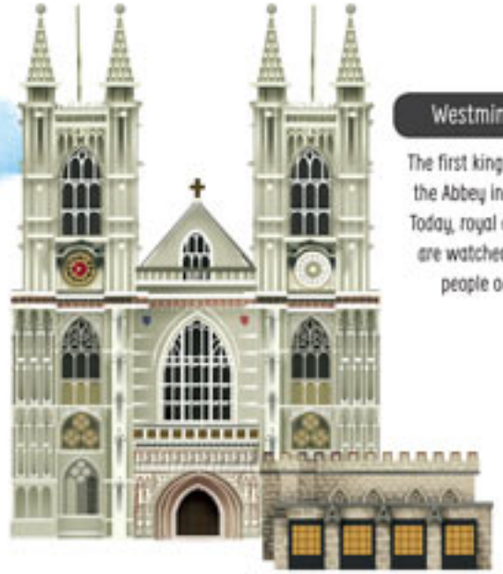
The Royal Family's coaches are kept in the Royal Mews behind the Palace.

ROYAL LONDON

London has been home to British kings and queens for around 1,000 years. Today there are several lavish palaces around the city.



Buckingham Palace



Westminster Abbey

The first king was crowned in the Abbey in the year 1066. Today, royal ceremonies here are watched by millions of people on television.



Royal coach

On important occasions, the Queen rides in a royal State Coach.



Royal barge

The golden barge *Gloriana* was rowed up the Thames to celebrate Elizabeth II's 60th year as Queen.



Marble Arch

This marble gateway was moved from Buckingham Palace to the corner of Hyde Park, around 150 years ago.



Hampton Court Palace

Hampton Court, on the bank of the River Thames outside London, was another of King Henry VIII's homes.



St. James's Palace

St. James's Palace was home to King Henry VIII and then his daughter, Queen Elizabeth I, around 500 years ago.



Kensington Palace

Diana, Princess of Wales, once lived in this palace, which is at the end of Kensington Gardens.



Windsor Castle

The Queen sometimes spends weekends at this grand castle outside London.



The Tower of London