A is for Arches



For 500 years, prisoners would 'go west' to the Tyburn Tree (near Marble Arch) to be hanged in front of crowds large enough to fill Wembley.

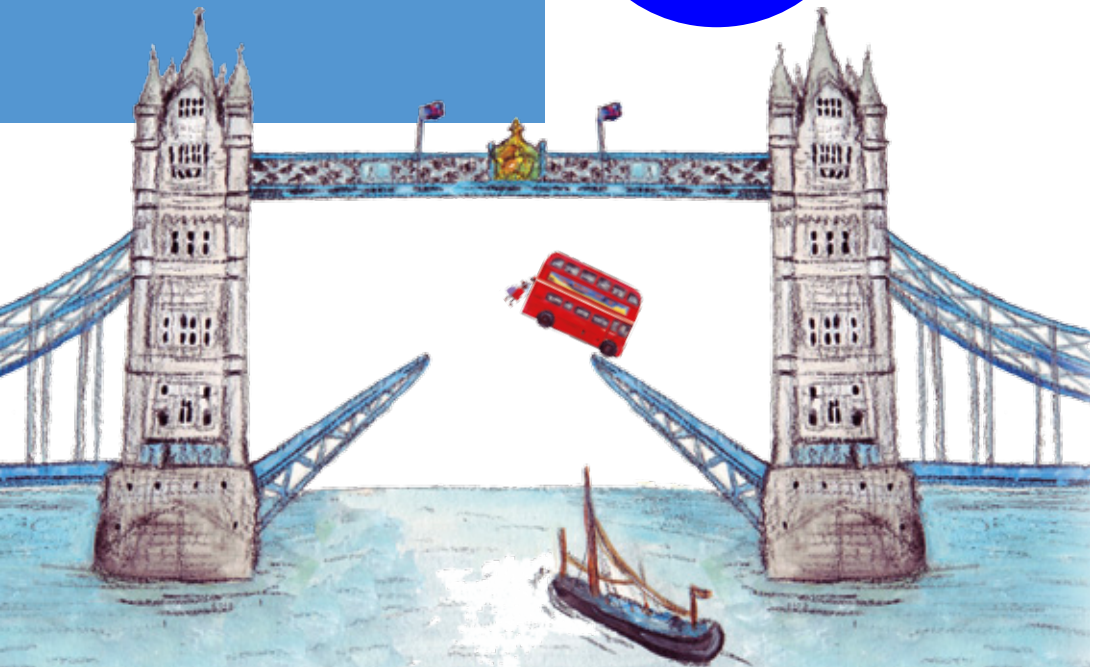
B is for Bobby

Hello, 'ello, 'ello ... Bobbies are named after Sir Robert Peel, who created the first police force in 1829. If you get lost in London, ask a policeman.

Hickory dickory dock, a flock of starlings stopped the clock. They landed on the minute hand of Big Ben in 1945 and moved it back by five minutes.

R is for River Thames

Mind the Gap! In 1952, a number 78 bus jumped the gap after Tower Bridge started to lift its deck to allow a boat to pass underneath.





In 1909, two men raced a marathon over 524 circuits of the Royal Albert Hall – one finished. A century later 35,000 people ran the London Marathon.

Detective Sherlock Holmes lived at 221b Baker Street.

S is for Shopping



T is for Theatres



London taxis are all registered as Hackney (or horsedrawn) Carriages. The taximeter used to calculate fares gives taxis their name.



All the world's a stage – there are more than 100 theatres in London, including the reconstructed Globe, originally built in 1599.

U is for UNDERGROUND

The world's oldest underground railway was opened in 1863 and is known as the Tube. Around 80,000 umbrellas are lost each year on the trains.

Y is for Yeoman Warders

Yeoman Warders, or Beefeaters, guard the Tower and look after the ravens. The monarchy and Tower will crumble if the ravens ever leave.



King John kept lions and bears at the Tower of London in 1204. The animals were finally moved to London Zoo in 1831.



Z is for Zoo





London Zoo was the first scientific Zoo. It was founded by Sir Stamford Raffles, who is better known for founding Singapore (the Lion City).