

Big Ben



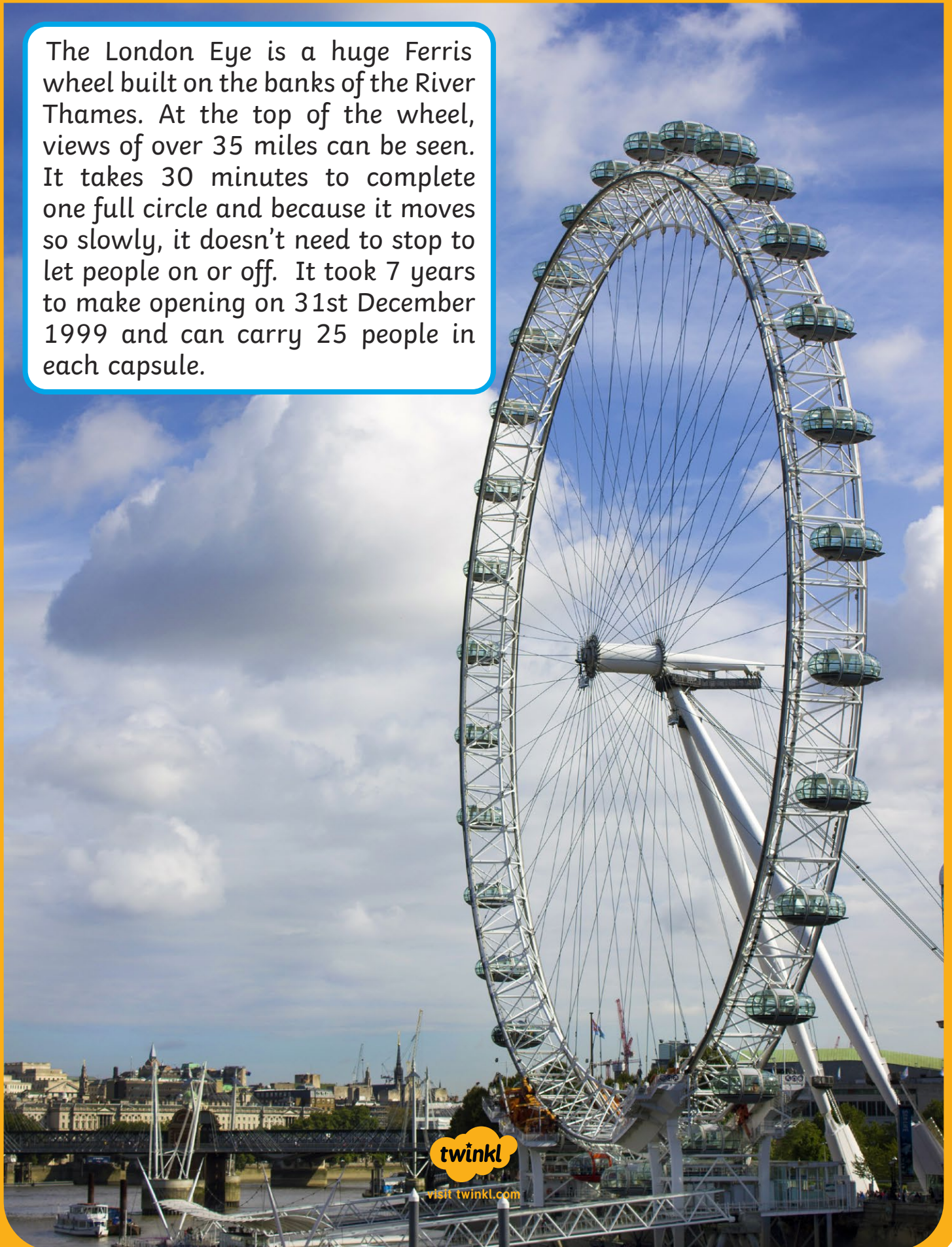
Big Ben is the name given to the huge bell in the clock at the top of the Houses of Parliament. The clock has 4 faces on the Elizabeth Tower and is 55 metres high. Each clock face is 7 metres in diameter. The bell weighs 13.8 tonnes and is 2.2 metres tall. The clock has been ticking above London for over 150 years.



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The London Eye

The London Eye is a huge Ferris wheel built on the banks of the River Thames. At the top of the wheel, views of over 35 miles can be seen. It takes 30 minutes to complete one full circle and because it moves so slowly, it doesn't need to stop to let people on or off. It took 7 years to make opening on 31st December 1999 and can carry 25 people in each capsule.



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The National Gallery

The National Gallery is an art museum in London with over 2300 paintings from as far back as the 13th Century. The art collections actually belong to the government on behalf of the British Public. The first collection of paintings was bought in 1824 for £57 000.



Westminster Abbey



Westminster Abbey is a large Church in central London. It was built between 1245 and 1272. Over 3 000 famous people are buried in the abbey including Charles Dickens (author of *Oliver Twist* and *A Christmas Carol*) and Charles Darwin (Scientist best known for his theory of evolution). The abbey is used to crown British monarchs on the famous Coronation Chair and is also used to host many royal weddings including the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011.

Nelson's Column



Nelson's Column was built between 1840 and 1843. The granite column is 56 metres high with a 5.5 metre statue of Admiral Nelson. Nelson was part of the British Royal Navy who fought and won four battles during which he lost an arm and an eye. Nelson's Column is in Trafalgar Square and is guarded by 4 huge lions which were made out of the metal from guns.



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Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park



The Olympic Park was built for the 2012 Summer Olympics and contained the Olympic Village, London Stadium and Aquatics Centre. Today, the park covers 560 acres including 30 acres of woods, 4 300 newly planted trees, 6.5 km of waterways, playgrounds and cafes. It also included 525 bird boxes and 150 bat boxes. Since the park opened, 16 million people have visited the park.

London

London is the capital city and the largest city in England. It is also the largest city in Europe. There are more than 8 million people living in London and over 300 languages spoken. Over 15 million people visit London each year to see some of its many attractions including Buckingham Palace (the Queen's official London residence), Tower Bridge and 10 Downing Street (the official residence of the Prime Minister).



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MI6 Headquarters

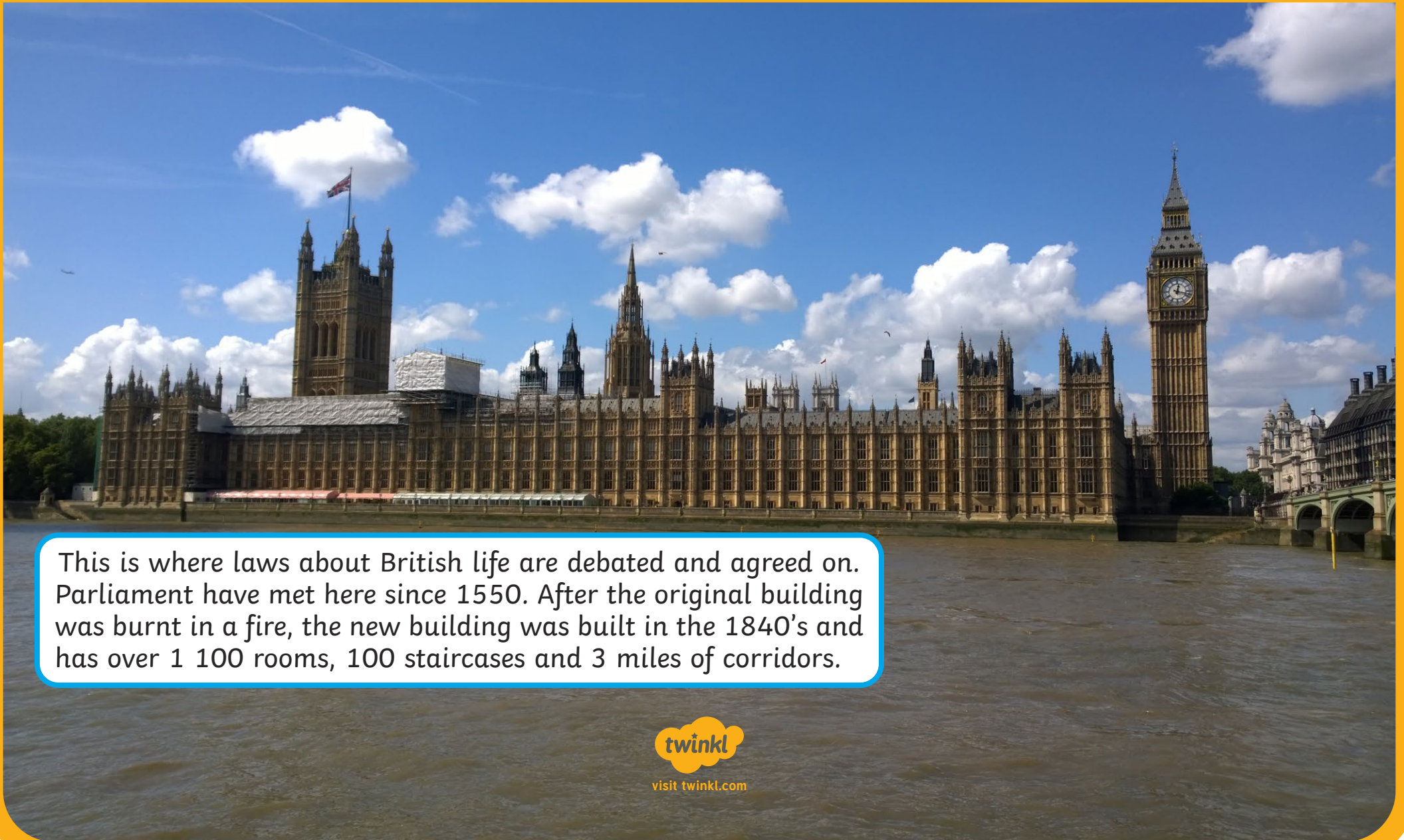


MI6 or the Secret Intelligence Service is the UK's intelligence agency which gathers and evaluates information about foreign countries. It provides the British Government with intelligence to defend national security. There are over 2000 secret spies who work in the building.



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Houses of Parliament



This is where laws about British life are debated and agreed on. Parliament have met here since 1550. After the original building was burnt in a fire, the new building was built in the 1840's and has over 1 100 rooms, 100 staircases and 3 miles of corridors.



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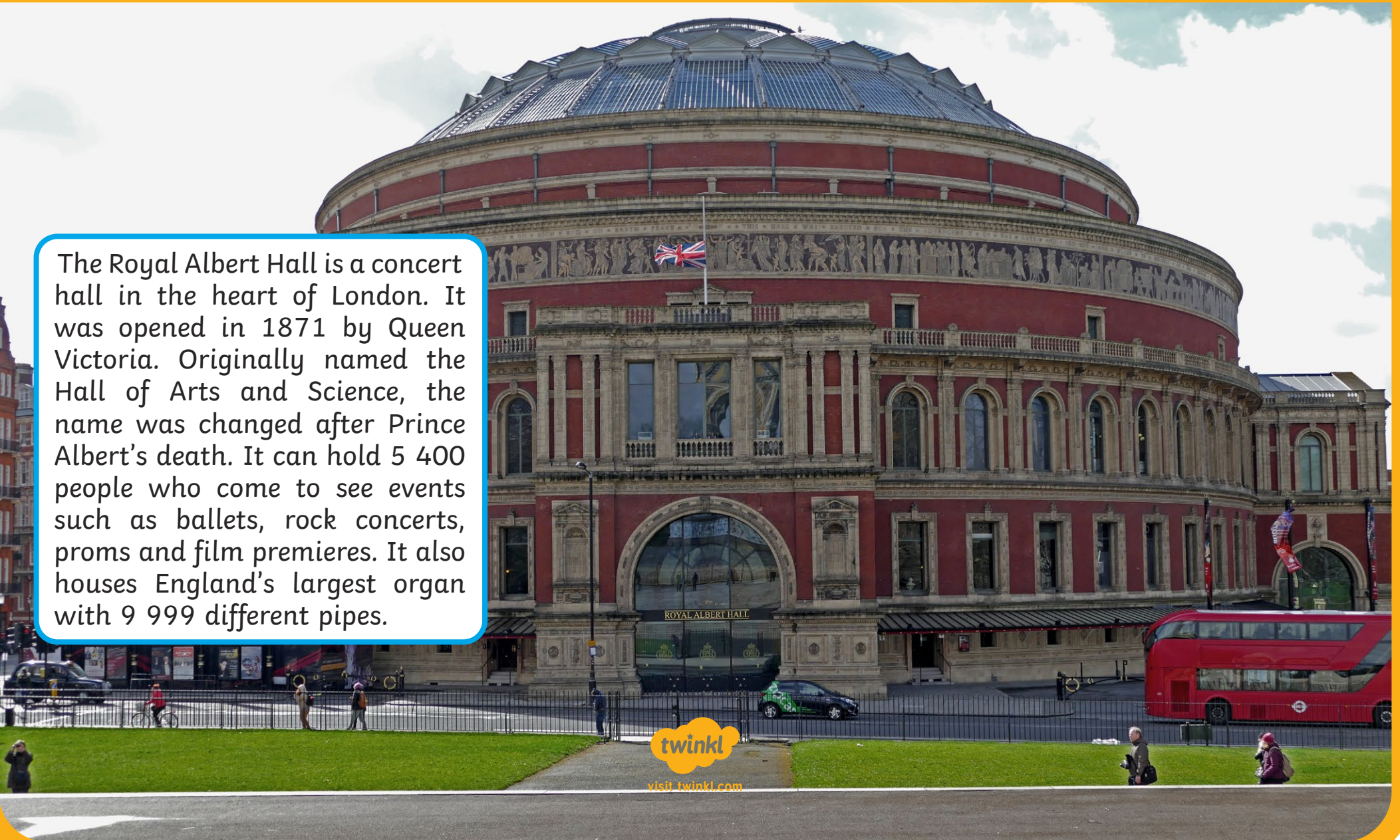
BBC Broadcasting House

This is the headquarters of the BBC situated in central London. BBC News, Radio, TV and Online services are all made from here. The first broadcast was made in 1932 and in 2003 major renovations began to make a new broadcasting house. BBC Radio shows such as BBC Radio 1 are broadcast from here as well as TV programmes including BBC World News, The One Show and BBC Sport.



Royal Albert Hall

The Royal Albert Hall is a concert hall in the heart of London. It was opened in 1871 by Queen Victoria. Originally named the Hall of Arts and Science, the name was changed after Prince Albert's death. It can hold 5 400 people who come to see events such as ballets, rock concerts, proms and film premieres. It also houses England's largest organ with 9 999 different pipes.



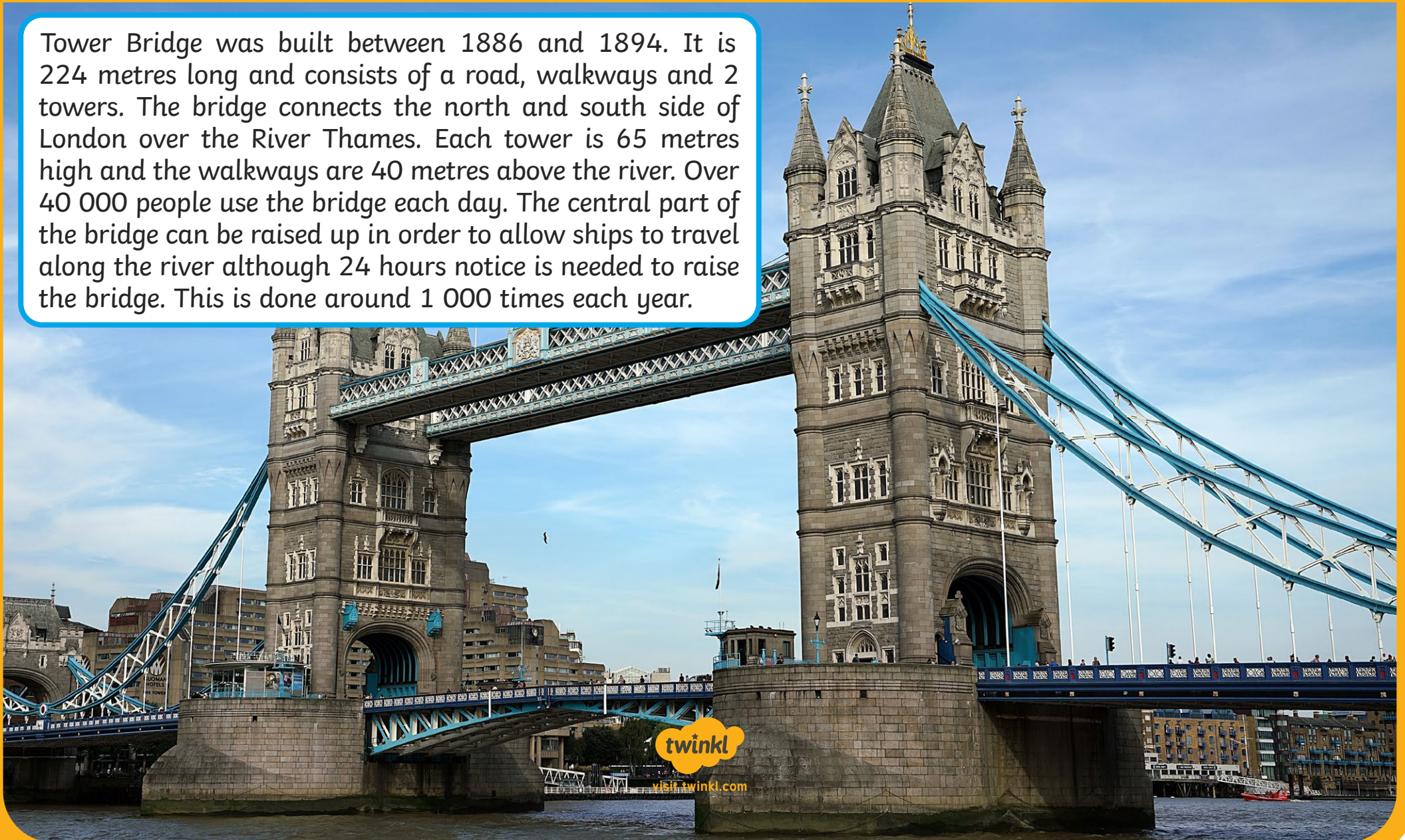
London Underground



This is the oldest and largest rail network in the world. It first opened in 1863 with wooden carriages pulled by steam trains. There are 250 miles of track, 11 different lines and 287 stations. Despite its name, around half of the tracks actually runs above the ground. Around 5 million people travel on the Underground each day.

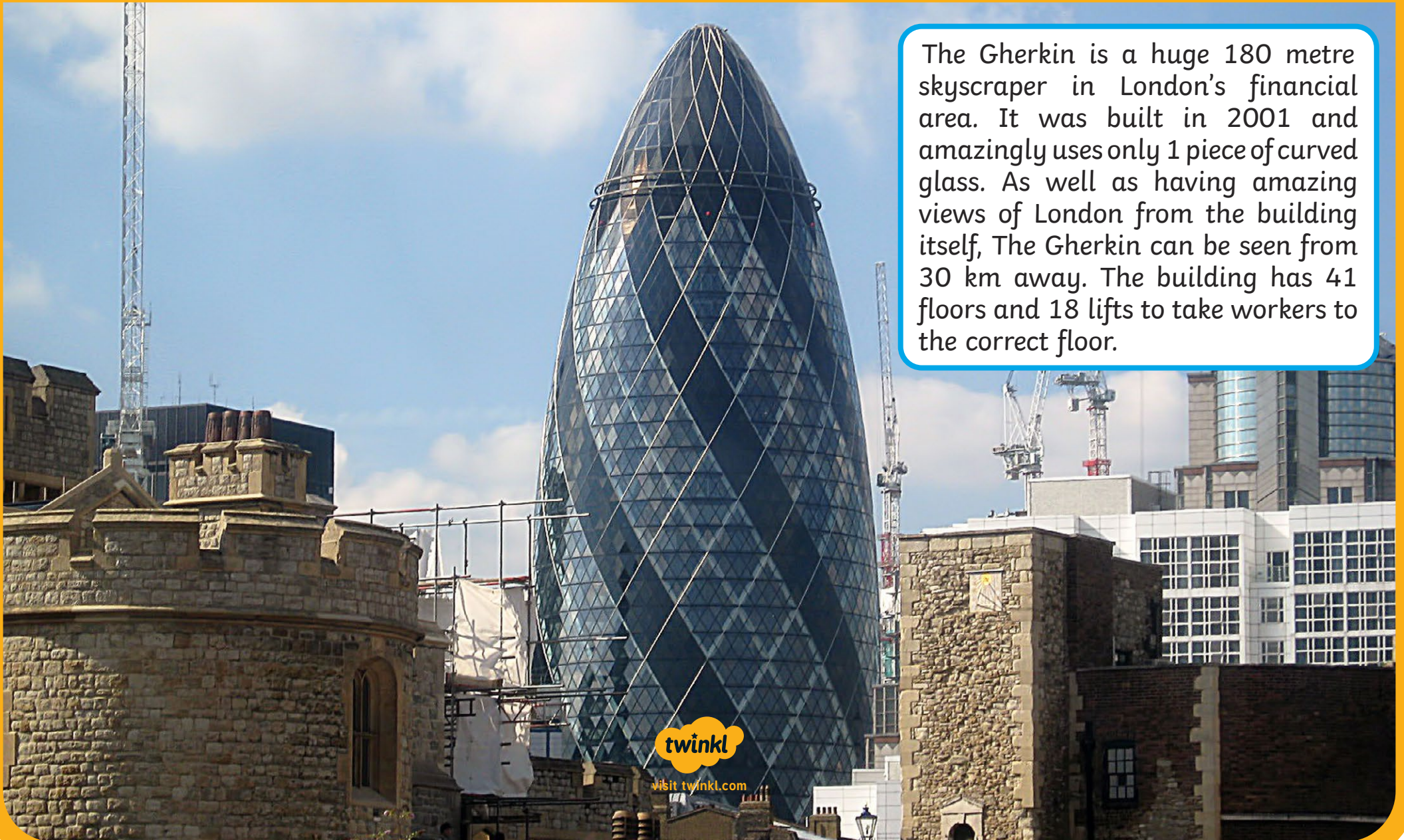
Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge was built between 1886 and 1894. It is 224 metres long and consists of a road, walkways and 2 towers. The bridge connects the north and south side of London over the River Thames. Each tower is 65 metres high and the walkways are 40 metres above the river. Over 40 000 people use the bridge each day. The central part of the bridge can be raised up in order to allow ships to travel along the river although 24 hours notice is needed to raise the bridge. This is done around 1 000 times each year.



The Gherkin

The Gherkin is a huge 180 metre skyscraper in London's financial area. It was built in 2001 and amazingly uses only 1 piece of curved glass. As well as having amazing views of London from the building itself, The Gherkin can be seen from 30 km away. The building has 41 floors and 18 lifts to take workers to the correct floor.

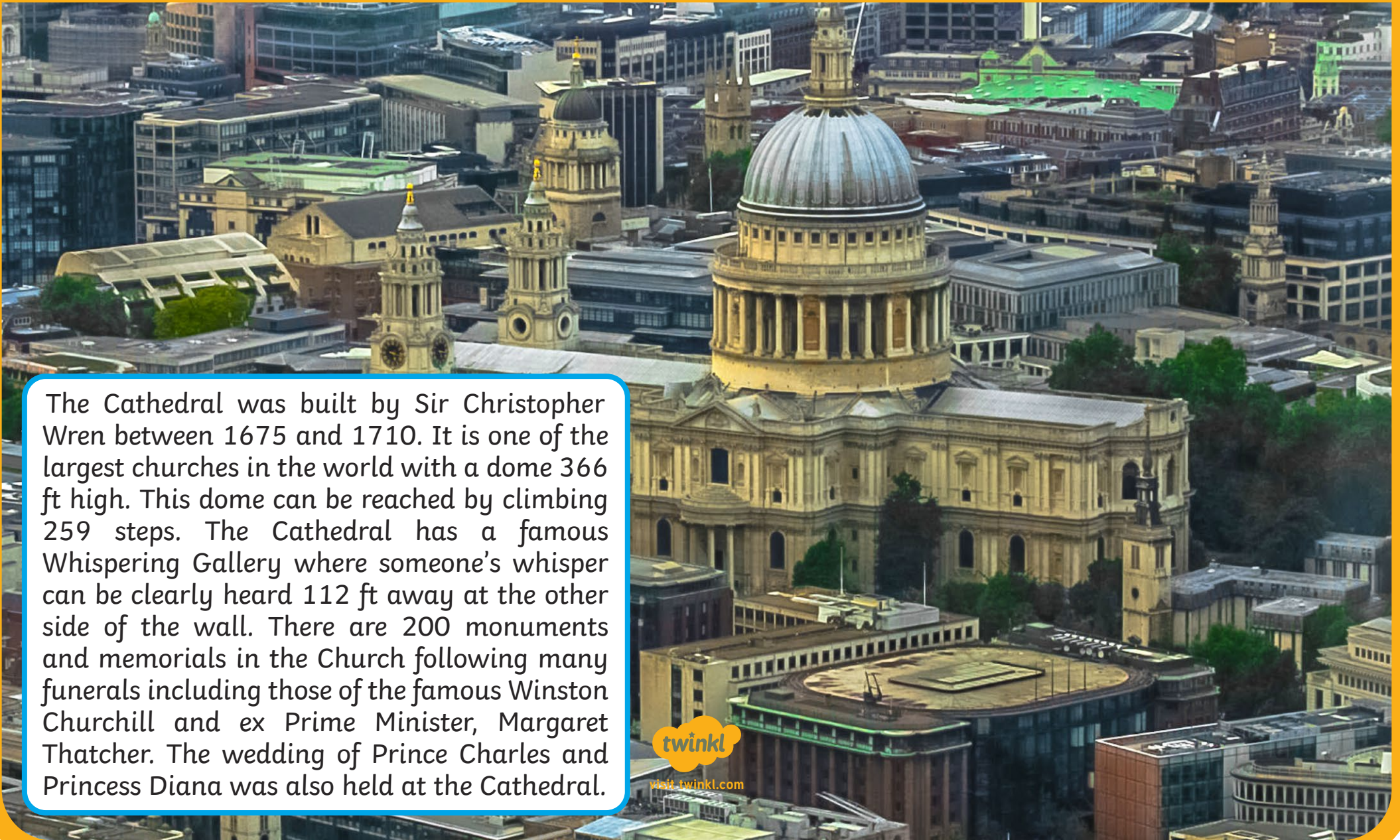


St. Paul's Cathedral

The Cathedral was built by Sir Christopher Wren between 1675 and 1710. It is one of the largest churches in the world with a dome 366 ft high. This dome can be reached by climbing 259 steps. The Cathedral has a famous Whispering Gallery where someone's whisper can be clearly heard 112 ft away at the other side of the wall. There are 200 monuments and memorials in the Church following many funerals including those of the famous Winston Churchill and ex Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. The wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana was also held at the Cathedral.

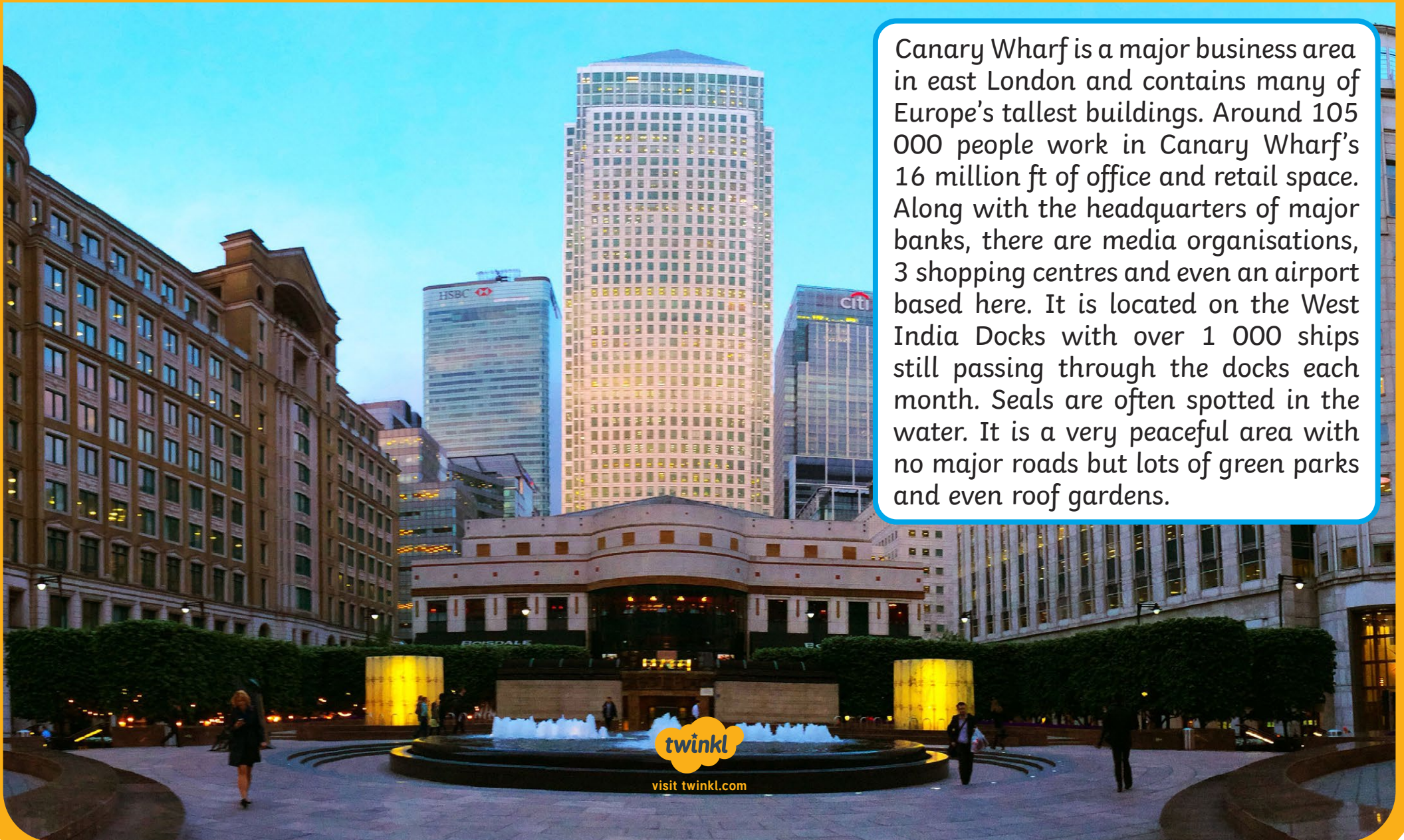
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Canary Wharf

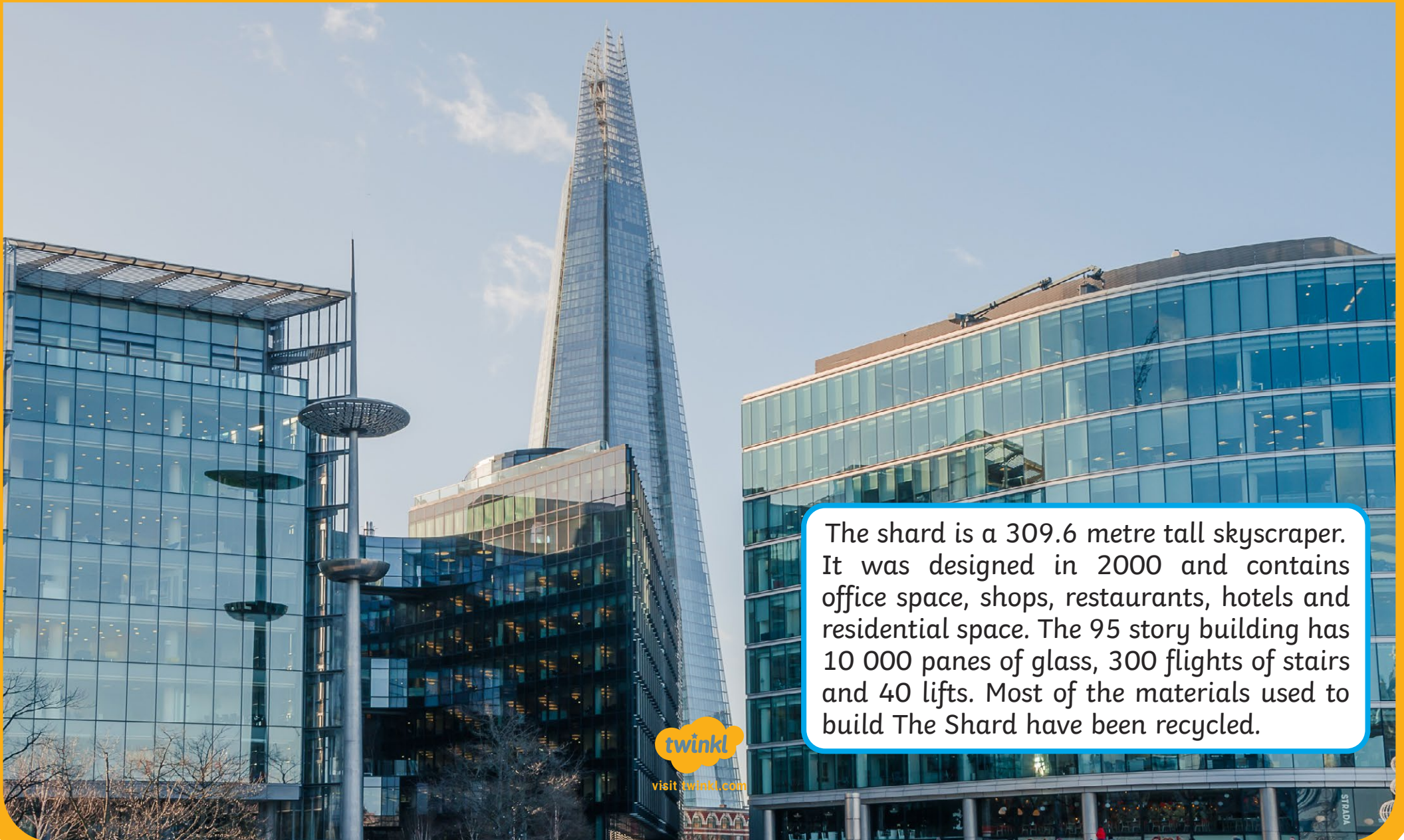
Canary Wharf is a major business area in east London and contains many of Europe's tallest buildings. Around 105 000 people work in Canary Wharf's 16 million ft of office and retail space. Along with the headquarters of major banks, there are media organisations, 3 shopping centres and even an airport based here. It is located on the West India Docks with over 1 000 ships still passing through the docks each month. Seals are often spotted in the water. It is a very peaceful area with no major roads but lots of green parks and even roof gardens.



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The Shard



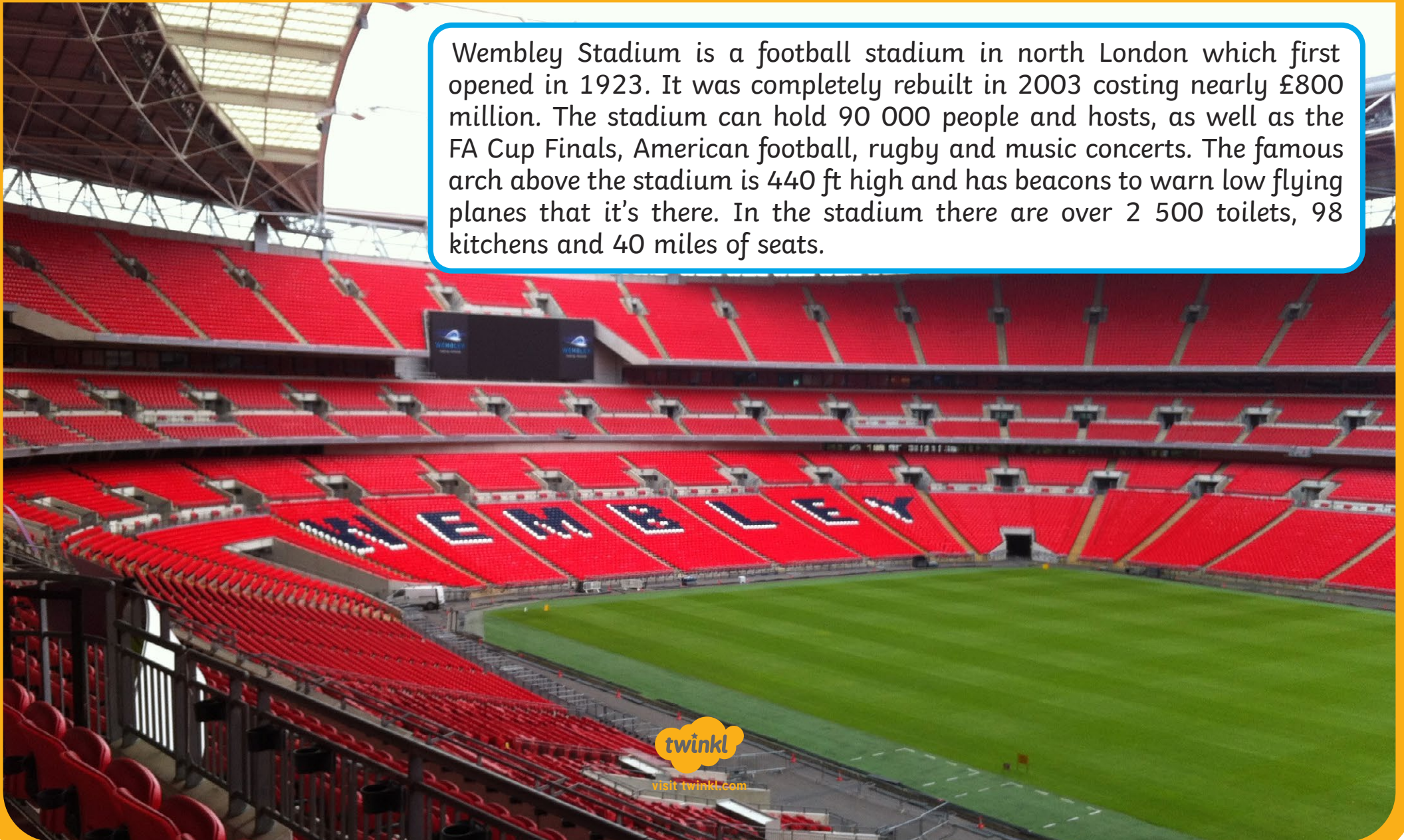
The shard is a 309.6 metre tall skyscraper. It was designed in 2000 and contains office space, shops, restaurants, hotels and residential space. The 95 story building has 10 000 panes of glass, 300 flights of stairs and 40 lifts. Most of the materials used to build The Shard have been recycled.

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Wembley Stadium

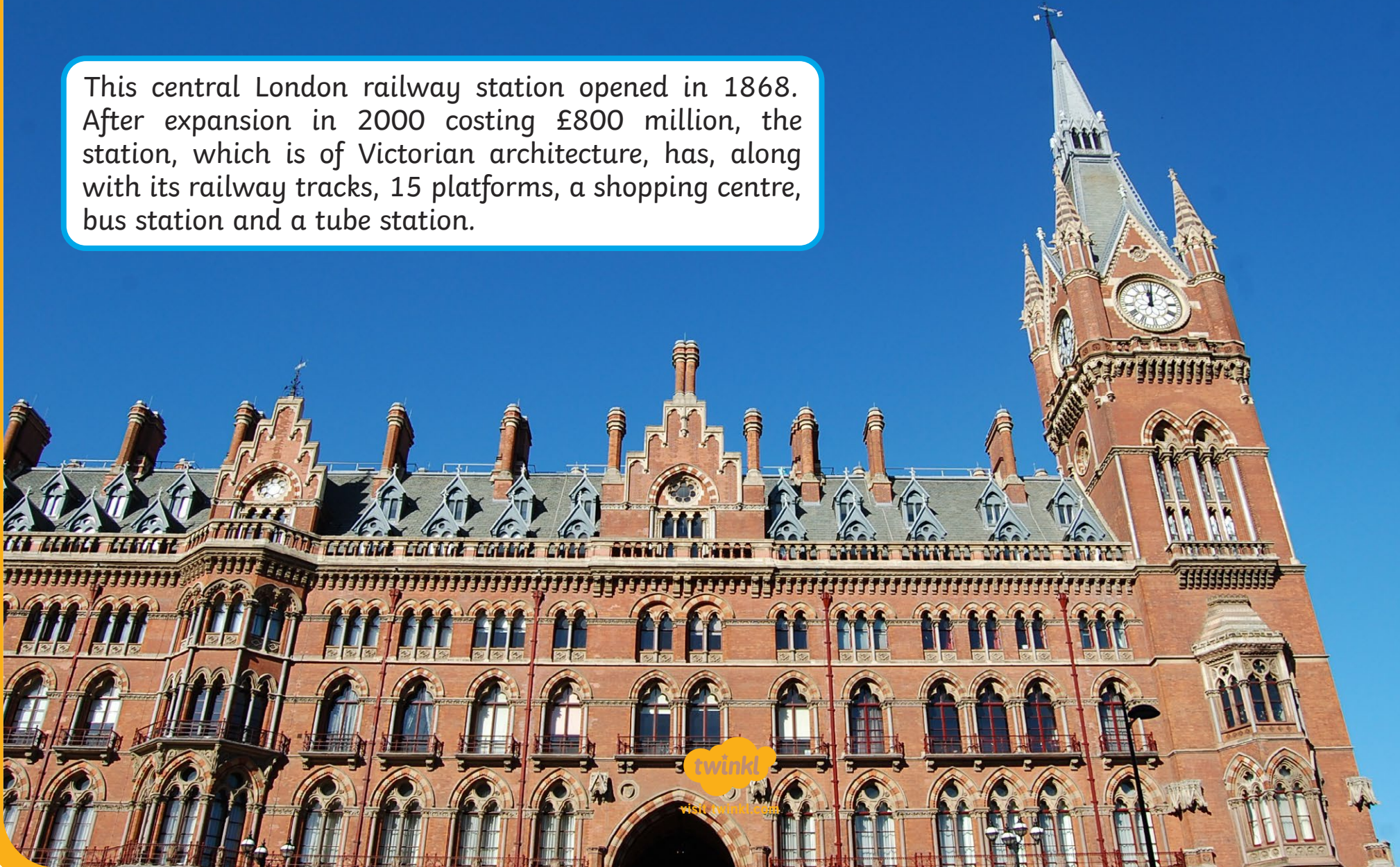
Wembley Stadium is a football stadium in north London which first opened in 1923. It was completely rebuilt in 2003 costing nearly £800 million. The stadium can hold 90 000 people and hosts, as well as the FA Cup Finals, American football, rugby and music concerts. The famous arch above the stadium is 440 ft high and has beacons to warn low flying planes that it's there. In the stadium there are over 2 500 toilets, 98 kitchens and 40 miles of seats.



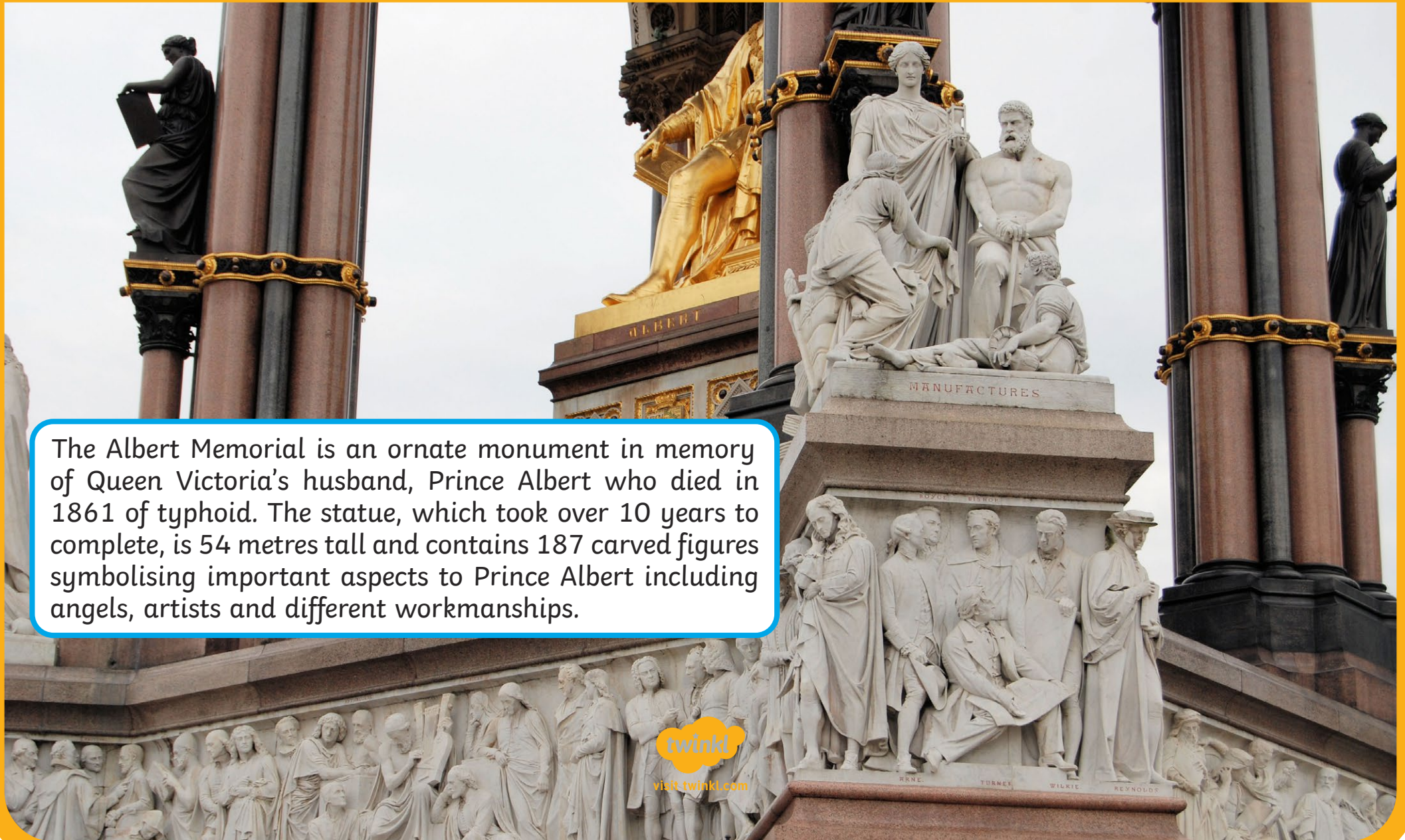
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St. Pancras Station

This central London railway station opened in 1868. After expansion in 2000 costing £800 million, the station, which is of Victorian architecture, has, along with its railway tracks, 15 platforms, a shopping centre, bus station and a tube station.



The Albert Memorial



The Albert Memorial is an ornate monument in memory of Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert who died in 1861 of typhoid. The statue, which took over 10 years to complete, is 54 metres tall and contains 187 carved figures symbolising important aspects to Prince Albert including angels, artists and different workmanships.

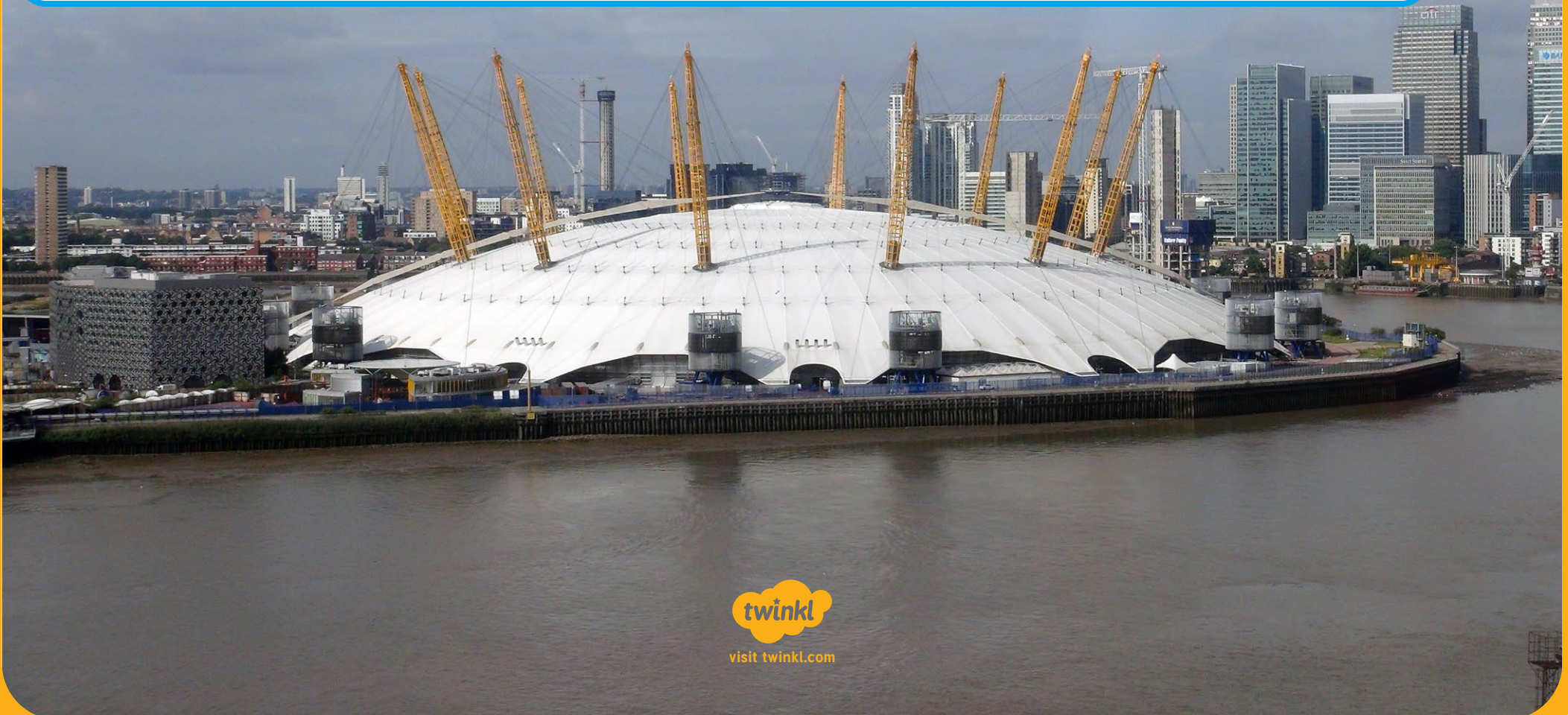
Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace is the official London residence of the British monarch. Queen Victoria was the first monarch to live in Buckingham palace, before then it was a private house built in 1703. The palace has nearly 800 rooms including 240 bedrooms and 80 bathrooms as well as a post office, cinema and a swimming pool. There are 40 acres of gardens including tennis courts, boating lake and a helicopter pad.



Millennium Dome

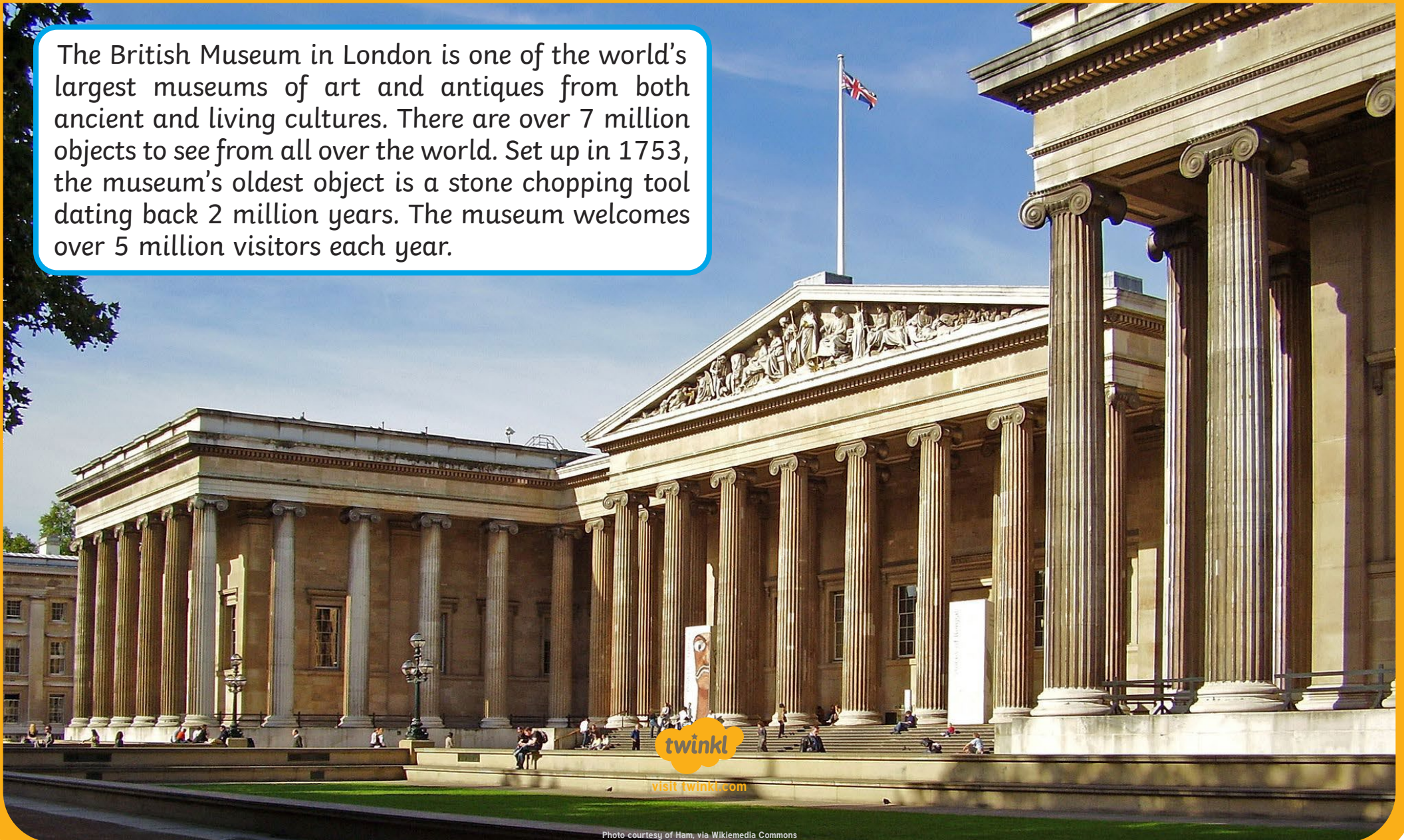
Millennium Dome was officially opened in 2000. It is a large dome shaped building in South East London which celebrated the third millennium. It began its life as an exhibition centre to show off all things British. It then became an entertainment stadium including a 22 000 concert and sports venue with a cinema and music club. During the 2012 Olympic Games, the building held the gymnastics and basketball competitions. Visitors to the dome can walk across the roof 60 metres high.



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British Museum

The British Museum in London is one of the world's largest museums of art and antiques from both ancient and living cultures. There are over 7 million objects to see from all over the world. Set up in 1753, the museum's oldest object is a stone chopping tool dating back 2 million years. The museum welcomes over 5 million visitors each year.

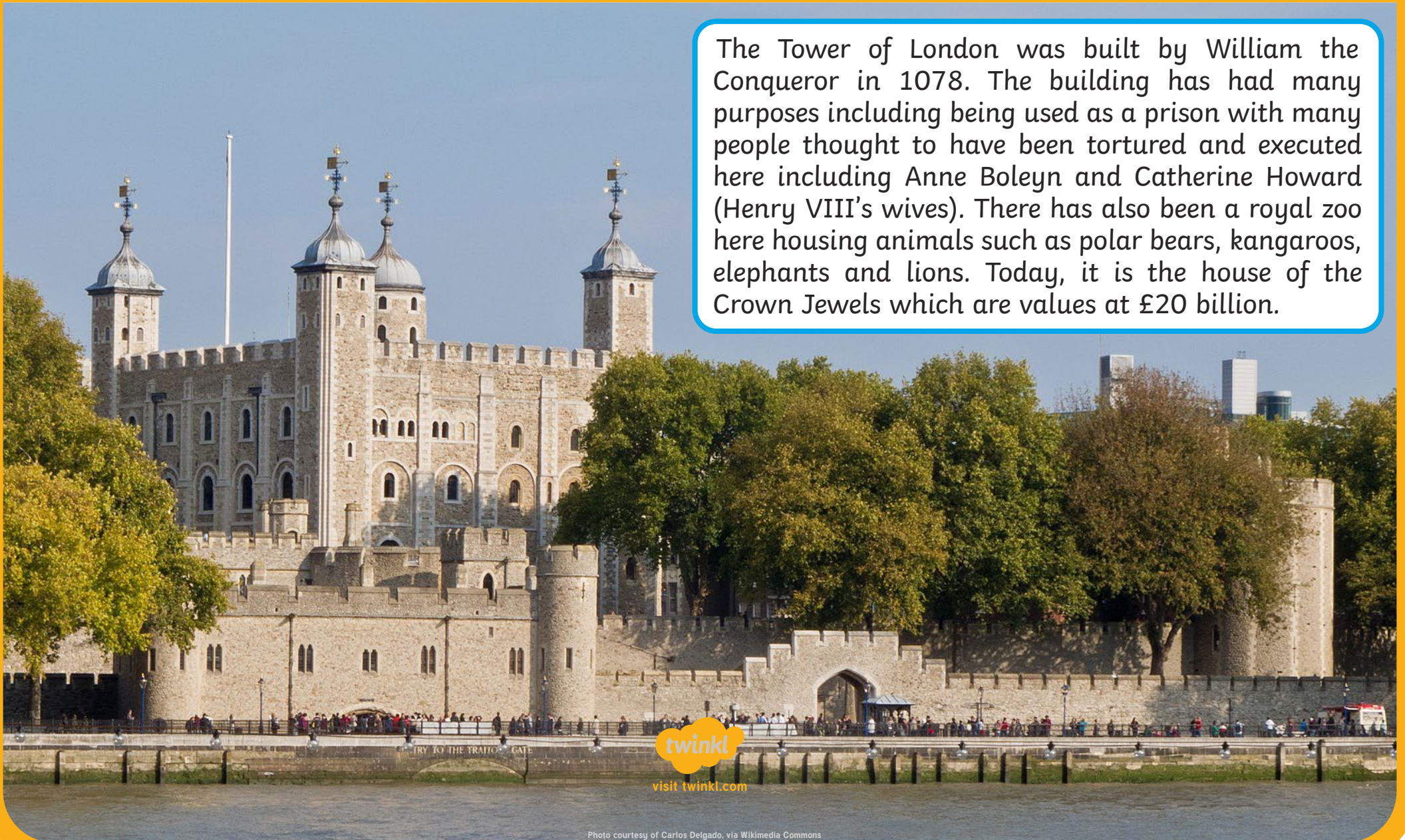


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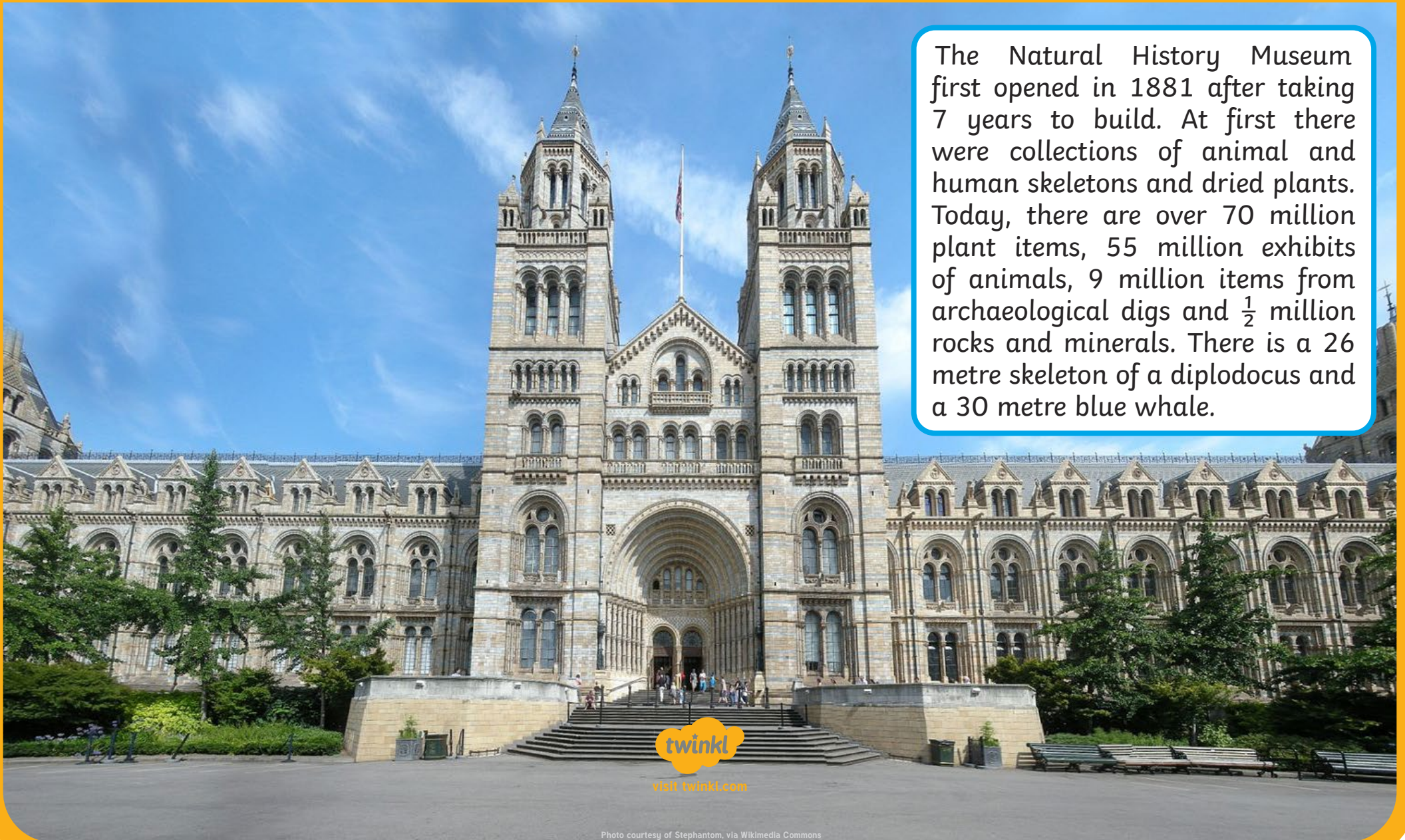
Tower of London

The Tower of London was built by William the Conqueror in 1078. The building has had many purposes including being used as a prison with many people thought to have been tortured and executed here including Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard (Henry VIII's wives). There has also been a royal zoo here housing animals such as polar bears, kangaroos, elephants and lions. Today, it is the house of the Crown Jewels which are valued at £20 billion.



Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum first opened in 1881 after taking 7 years to build. At first there were collections of animal and human skeletons and dried plants. Today, there are over 70 million plant items, 55 million exhibits of animals, 9 million items from archaeological digs and $\frac{1}{2}$ million rocks and minerals. There is a 26 metre skeleton of a diplodocus and a 30 metre blue whale.



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