



WHAT'S THE STORY?

Since 2017, UK Parliament has been carefully restoring the clock tower to make it fit for the 21st century. This has been vital to ensure that this iconic building, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site, can be visited and enjoyed by you and future generations to come.

The famous bell, Big Ben, has been chiming for over 160 years, watching over our democracy as our rights, laws and the world we live in has changed. During this time, the effects of weather, pollution and bombing during the Second World War left it needing extensive restoration.

Many hundreds of specialist craftspeople from across the UK have contributed to the restoration project. They have used traditional trades including stone masonry, gilding, glass cutting and horology (the study of time).

BRING IT TO LIFE

You can watch the restorers of the Elizabeth Tower talk about their work in this three-minute video which offers close ups of the restoration taking place:

[youtube.com/watch?v=sqCHNQ6eSxo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqCHNQ6eSxo)



CREATE: RESTORE THE ELIZABETH TOWER

What's the big idea? Use this activity to get thinking about the different crafts needed to restore our iconic Elizabeth Tower.

1. Using this Elizabeth Tower Restored design sheet, follow the instructions on the tick list to restore the iconic clock dial of the Elizabeth Tower to its former glory.
2. If you want to get more creative, you could design your own clock face. What colours and designs would you add if you were in charge? What do your choices represent? Get as creative as you like!





TICK EACH RESTORATION TASK ONCE YOU'VE COMPLETED IT.

- ☐ **Add the clock hands in navy blue.** These were restored during restoration to their original colour, which had been painted over in black to hide damage.
- ☐ **Carefully colour over the roman numeral numbers,** also using the navy blue. This made the numbers clear again after years of grime and re-painting.
- ☐ **Choose a gold (or yellow) colour to repair the gilt decorations** around the clock dial. Some of the gilt had worn been away over the years or even painted over and needed to be replaced.
- ☐ **Add the Heraldic shields based on the St George Cross** into the six empty spaces at the top of the clock face.

