

R&T *Discovery*

Step **1**

London

Gina D. B. Clemen

audio CD



Vicens Vives - London (Blackcat. R&T Discovery)
- ISBN: 9788853010216

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Editor: Daniela Penzavalle
Design and art direction: Nadia Maestri
Computer graphics: Tiziana Pesce
Picture research: Laura Lagomarsino

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info@blackcat-cideb.com
blackcat-cideb.com




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The text is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.



Introduction

London is the capital of the United Kingdom and has a population of about 7,500,000. In the 19th century it was the biggest and most important city in the world, the centre of the great British Empire.

Today, London is not the biggest city in the world but it is still one of the most important business, financial, educational and cultural centres. It is an international city with people from all over the world who live and work there: more than 300 languages are spoken in London. After World War II (1939-45) two large groups of immigrants ¹ settled in London: one group of people came from different parts of India, and the other group came from the Caribbean and African countries. There are, however, now as always, immigrants from all over the world.

London covers a very big area: about 1,610 sq km (620 sq miles). This area is divided into thirty-two boroughs ² and the City of London which is a separate political unit. Most of Central London is located north of the River Thames and includes the City of London, Westminster and the West End. London has many suburbs. ³

The book you are going to read will introduce you to one of the world's most exciting and interesting cities, where there is always a lot to see and do.

1. **immigrants** : people who leave their native country and go to live and work in another country.
2. **boroughs** : parts of a city which have their own local governments.
3. **suburbs** : the parts of a city outside the centre where people live.

The Beginnings

The Romans gave Britain a written language, written numbers, a ten-month calendar and excellent roads.



Roman Londinium



In 43 CE the Roman Emperor Claudius sent an army of 40,000 soldiers to invade Britain. Shortly after, the Romans founded the town of Londinium on the north side of the River Thames, where the City of London stands today.

The Roman soldiers built a wooden bridge across the River Thames just east of the present London Bridge. Along the river there was a wharf for ships and warehouses for goods. The Roman historian Tacitus wrote that Londinium became a busy centre for trade.¹

Early Londinium was a small town, about the size of one of modern London's big parks. It looked like most other Roman towns, with a rectangular plan and two main streets that

1. **trade** : when people buy and sell goods.

crossed each other, and at the centre there was the forum. This was a square with a market, shops and a big town hall called the basilica.

Around the year 60 CE Londinium was attacked and destroyed by the Iceni people led by Queen Boudicca, who was against the Romans. However, the town was soon rebuilt and it became an important military and centre for trade. By 100 CE Londinium had a population of about 65,000 and became the capital of the Roman province of Britannia. In Londinium the Romans built beautiful homes, important public buildings, a large basilica, a governor's palace, temples, bathhouses, an amphitheatre and a large fort for the soldiers.

Six important Roman roads started in or passed through Londinium; one of the most famous was Watling Street. It was an old road that went from Wales to Dover and it was improved by the Romans. People still use it today.

Walking tour group visiting the London Wall in Barbican, London; remnants of the old Roman wall that defended Londinium.





The text and **beyond**

KET 1 Comprehension check

Are these sentences 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' or 'Wrong', choose 'Doesn't say' (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

	A	B	C
0 The Roman army invaded Britain in 43 CE.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Tacitus was a Roman soldier.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Londinium became one of London's big parks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Londinium was an important town and became the capital of Britannia in the year 100 CE.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Watling Street was two hundred kilometers long.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 The Roman army had to go back to Rome because there were problems in the empire.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 In the ninth century the Vikings built walls around Londinium to protect it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Westminster Abbey was built by King Edward the Confessor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 The king and the nobles lived in the City and the merchants lived in Westminster.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 The Normans won the Battle of Hastings in 1066.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 It took thirty-five years to rebuild London Bridge in stone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 In the fifteenth century London was a poor city.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Italian bankers started the first London banks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



2 Who was it?

Match the descriptions (1-12) with the names (A-J). You can use a name more than once.

- 1 He built the White Tower.
- 2 He called the Roman army back to Rome.
- 3 He made peace with the Viking leader.
- 4 They built a long wall along the northern part of Londinium.
- 5 He fought in the Battle of Hastings.
- 6 He sent a big army to invade Britain.
- 7 They built old St Paul's Cathedral.
- 8 They invaded Britain in the ninth century.
- 9 They set up the first banks in London.
- 10 He was a Roman historian who wrote about Londinium.
- 11 They built a wooden bridge across the River Thames.
- 12 He built Westminster Abbey.

- A King Alfred the Great
- B The Vikings
- C Emperor Claudius
- D Tacitus
- E King Edward the Confessor
- F The Romans
- G Emperor Constantine III
- H Italian bankers
- I The Normans
- J William the Conqueror

Choose three names and write a sentence about each one similar to 1-12 above. Then read your sentences to the class. Can the class guess who they are?