

Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament.



The Houses of Parliament were built between 1843 and 1859 after a fire had destroyed the former Westminster Palace.

It is the seat of the British parliament : the House of Commons where elected MPs sit and the House of Lords.

Lords or peers of the realm are appointed by the Queen





Big Ben

Big Ben is the nickname for the great bell of 13.5 tons installed in the Clock Tower of the Palace, which is the seat of the British Parliament in London.

Only people who live in the UK can visit Big Ben, after obtaining permission.

Big Ben is standing on the banks of the River Thames by Westminster Bridge

Details.

- The height of the tower is 315 feet or about 96 meters.
- To reach the belfry, visitors must climb 335 steps.
- The clock consists of four dials, one on each side, 7 meters in diameter and a bell weighing 13.5 tons with a diameter of 2.7 meters and a height of 2.2 meters.
- The minute hand is 4.2 meters long.
- The hour is 2.7 meters long.
- The figures are about 60 cm long.
- There are 312 pieces of glass in each clock face.
- The clock mechanism weighs 5 tons and the hammer weighs 200 kg.
- When parliament meets, a light illuminates the dials.
- The bell rang for the first time May 31, 1859.
- The bell can be heard six kilometers around.
- It strikes the hour, the quarter hour being sounded by other bells.

Big Ben song.

- Big Ben is known for the sound of its bell.



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9wWBjn_aEck