

UNIT 1

Part 1 - WALK AROUND THE CLOCK

LONDON CLOCKS



Photo sources: Canary Wharf by [Andy Worthington](#), Fortnum & Mason by [Guy Tyler](#), Shepherd Gate by [Stuart Sunley](#), Swiss Court by [NickyJameson](#), St Pancras by [Chris Beckett](#), Bracken House by [Check-in London](#), Covent Garden Water Clock by [Matt](#), Blackburn Pavilion, Big Benzene and the Upton Park clock by Londonist.

ACTIVITY 1

Scroll down these pages and decide on your two London's favourite clocks

<https://lookup.london/best-london-clocks/>

<https://londonist.com/2014/08/londons-unusual-clocks-explained>

<https://allforlondon.co.uk/clocks-of-london.html>

Find some information to tell your group about their history, where they are, what they represent and why you like them.

ACTIVITY 2



❖ The Palace of Westminster's famous clock tower has become one London's most famous landmarks, as well as one of the most iconic symbols of the city. The gothic-styled tower standing 315 feet (96 m) high holds a four-faced clock and was built in 1858 at the far end of the Parliament.

❖ Find out about the five different names that have been given to **Big Ben** along time.

<https://londonist.com/2012/06/big-ben-the-tower-with-five-names>

❖ Watch the video about **Covent Garden Water Clock**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHPU_6TIL7c&t=44s

Turn off the volume and watch the video trying to think up the working mechanism before you listen to the explanation. Then, in the big group try to put together all your ideas.

Now listen to the explanation given in the video. Your teacher will explain how it works.

See if your guess was right.

❖ Watch the video: **Fortnum & Mason Clock**.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PvLkpUUmGA&list=RDCMUCMB8HFoi_QUoGsoRRHyZGAQ&index=1

Answer the following questions:

- Who was William Fortnum?
- How did he go into business?
- What kind of business is it nowadays?
- What did they claim to have invented?

<https://www.fortnumandmason.com/stories/our-history-timeline>

ACTIVITY 3

Think about your city. Next time you walk around pay attention to the clocks you can see. Select two of them. Give reasons for your choice. Take some pictures. What do you know about its history? Why is it there? Search the Internet for information. Prepare a presentation and deliver it to your peers.



Teacher's notes

You can ask students these questions to wrap up the previous activities.



TRUE or FALSE

1. The tower commonly called Big Ben is really called The Clock Tower.
2. There is a clock in London called Little Ben.
3. There is a very famous clock inside an underground station.
4. If we look closely at the clock, we can tell who Mr Fortnum and who Mr Mason is.
5. Fortnum and Mason Department Store were well known for having invented the artistic candles.

ANSWERS:

1. FALSE. In 2012, the tower commonly called Big Ben was renamed the Elizabeth Tower to tie in with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
2. TRUE. Little Ben is a cast iron miniature Clock Tower. In design it mimics the famous Clock Tower known as Big Ben at the Palace of Westminster, found at the other end of Victoria Street.
3. TRUE. It is in Piccadilly Circus tube station. It works by the central strip moving across the globe at the same rate the Earth spins, meaning you can see the world's local time all at once.
4. TRUE. If we look closely at the clock, we will notice their initials on top of the two men representing the co-founders being the one on the left William Fortnum and on the right Hugh Mason.
5. FALSE. They claim to have invented the Scotch Egg.

Useful information

➤ Covent Garden's Water Clock

Neil Yard's Water Clock, 1982

The clock works by waterpower and gravity.

Working mechanism: The clock face at the top tells the hour and below you can read the minutes from the water tube lower down. During the course of each hour, the minute tube gradually fills with water. Evaporation in summer and freezing in winter must be considered for

the rate of refill the buckets. When the tubes fall, a float at the top releases the water which sets off a whole chain of events. The water operates the bells and the figures at the bottom, too. As the water level in the troughs rises, plastic flowers come up on floats as if growing. The final touch comes when the guy turns its spout onto the crowd below, showering the peeping passersby.

➤ **Fortnum and Mason's Clock, 1964**

William Fortnum was a footman in the royal household. The Royal Family insisted on having fresh candles at dinner every night even if they'd only burnt them a tiny little bit. So he started reselling all that unwanted wax and that's how he got into business with Hugh Mason, who he involved in his project. Every hour Mr Fortnum and Mr Mason come out of their clock to check that standards are being upkept. They bow to each other and then they go back in. They are on top of the main entrance to the department store of the same name.

The enterprise set itself the task to capitalise on creating food that was easily portable for long distance journeys. Coming up with numerous ideas, Mr Fortnum & his staff developed the smart idea of wrapping a hard-boiled egg in sausage meat and coating it in fried breadcrumbs, the world's first Scotch Egg. Tasty, filling and portable, it proved to be just as popular then as it is today.