

# CANARY WHARF

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## THROUGH THE AGES



CANARY WHARF  
GROUP PLC



# WELCOME!

The story of Canary Wharf is the story of London's Docklands – full of villains, ambition, setbacks and triumphs.

You'll meet kings and queens, sailors and pirates, captains of boats to captains of industry.

It is also the story of the people who worked on the river and in the docks, those who built the famous towers and the people who work in them every day.

Inside, you will read the story of how Canary Wharf started. You'll also get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of what happens in the buildings today.

Perhaps we'll see you at the Wharf one day.

We hope you enjoy it!

The Canary Wharf Group

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Trade, ships and pirates!

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New docks bring in a new era!

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A changing Docklands

**Page 12-17**  
Fold-out section of a tower and Canary Wharf today!

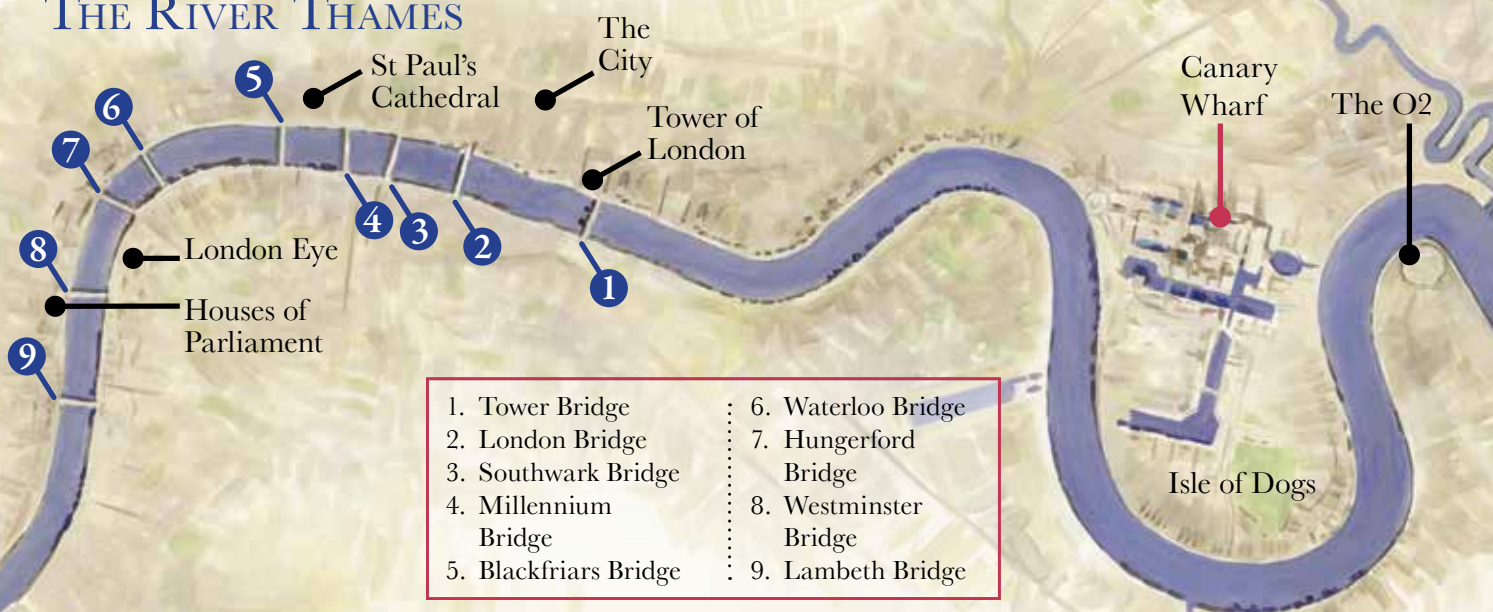
**Page 18-19**  
Canary Wharf – the people and their jobs

How many dogs can you spot in this book?

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Bombs and gas masks!

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## THE RIVER THAMES



## THE 1600s – MARSHLAND



London has been a busy port since the Romans settled in Britain, nearly 2000 years ago. But the Isle of Dogs wasn't built upon until a long time after that. This is because the area was a marshland, regularly flooded by the River Thames. Things slowly changed as walls were built on the banks of the Thames to stop the flooding.

By the 1600s, nearly two-thirds of England's trade went through the port of London

Ships constantly sailed up and down the river as London became one of the most important trading cities in the world.

From the 13th century, landowners began building flood-protection walls. Made of mud and chalk, they were up to 4.6m high and needed constant repair.

In the late 1600s, windmills were built on the western flood wall and used to grind corn. The area became known as Millwall.

Wild herbs growing on the marshland were made into medicines.

No one knows where the name Isle of Dogs comes from. Some say it's because King Henry VIII kept his hunting dogs here.

### CHILD'S PLAY

In the 1600s, only boys went to school. Girls, if they did study, did so at home. And there were no lie-ins either! Classes started at 6am in the summer and an hour later in the winter. But there was still time for fun – some of the games children played then, such as Hopscotch and Blind Man's Bluff, are still played to this day.



Animals grazed on the lush grass, before being taken to market in London.

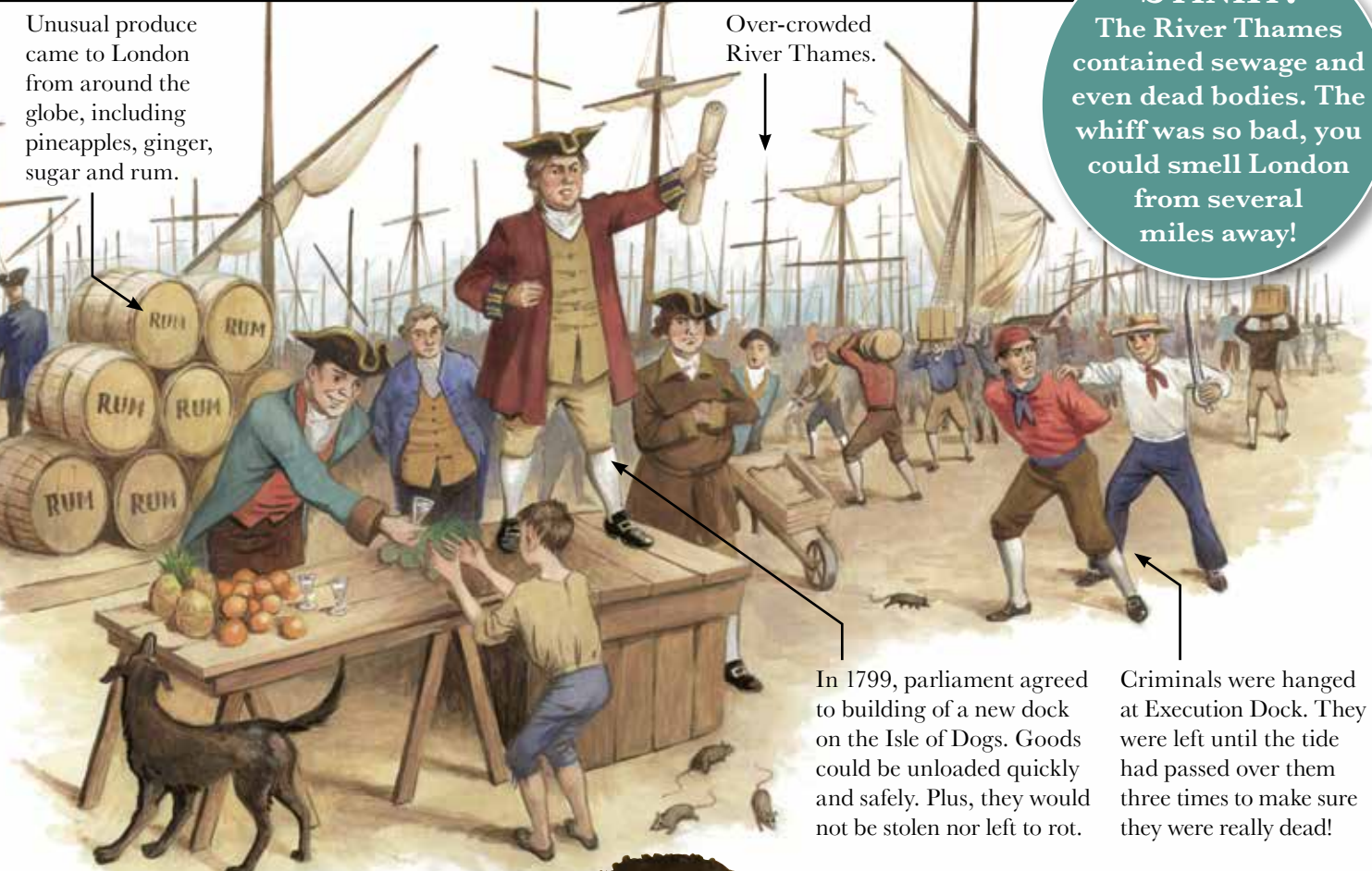


# THE 1780s – THE BUSIEST PORT IN THE WORLD

During the 1780s, London was the world's busiest port. The River Thames near London Bridge was so crowded it was said you could walk from one side of the river to the other by hopping from ship to ship! Ships could wait for weeks to unload their cargoes. That meant precious food rotted, while many other goods were stolen by gangs of river pirates who went by names such as the Night Plunderers and Heavy Horsemen. Something had to be done...



**STINKY!**  
The River Thames contained sewage and even dead bodies. The whiff was so bad, you could smell London from several miles away!



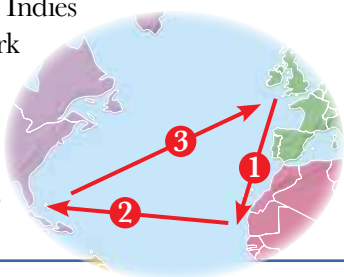
## SLAVES AND LONDON

In the 1700s, London became Britain's largest slaving port. Between 1618 and 1730, it is estimated that up to one million Africans, including children, were trafficked by London merchants. The sale of enslaved people and the sugar they were forced to produce created vast wealth in London. But it was at a huge cost to those enslaved, who suffered awful misery and enormous hardship.



## THE SLAVE TRADE TRIANGLE

① Ships travel from Europe to Africa, where traders buy slaves with goods such as copper, paper, glass, guns and cloth. ② Africans are shipped to the West Indies and Americas to work as slaves. ③ Goods such as sugar, rum and cotton, produced by slaves, are sold in Europe.



# THE 1800s – BRAND NEW DOCKS!

With parliament's approval, the first of the Isle of Dogs' docks was completed in 1802. It was opened by Prime Minister, Henry Addington. To try to keep out river gangs who stole goods, the docks were surrounded by a high wall and a wide ditch with a moat.

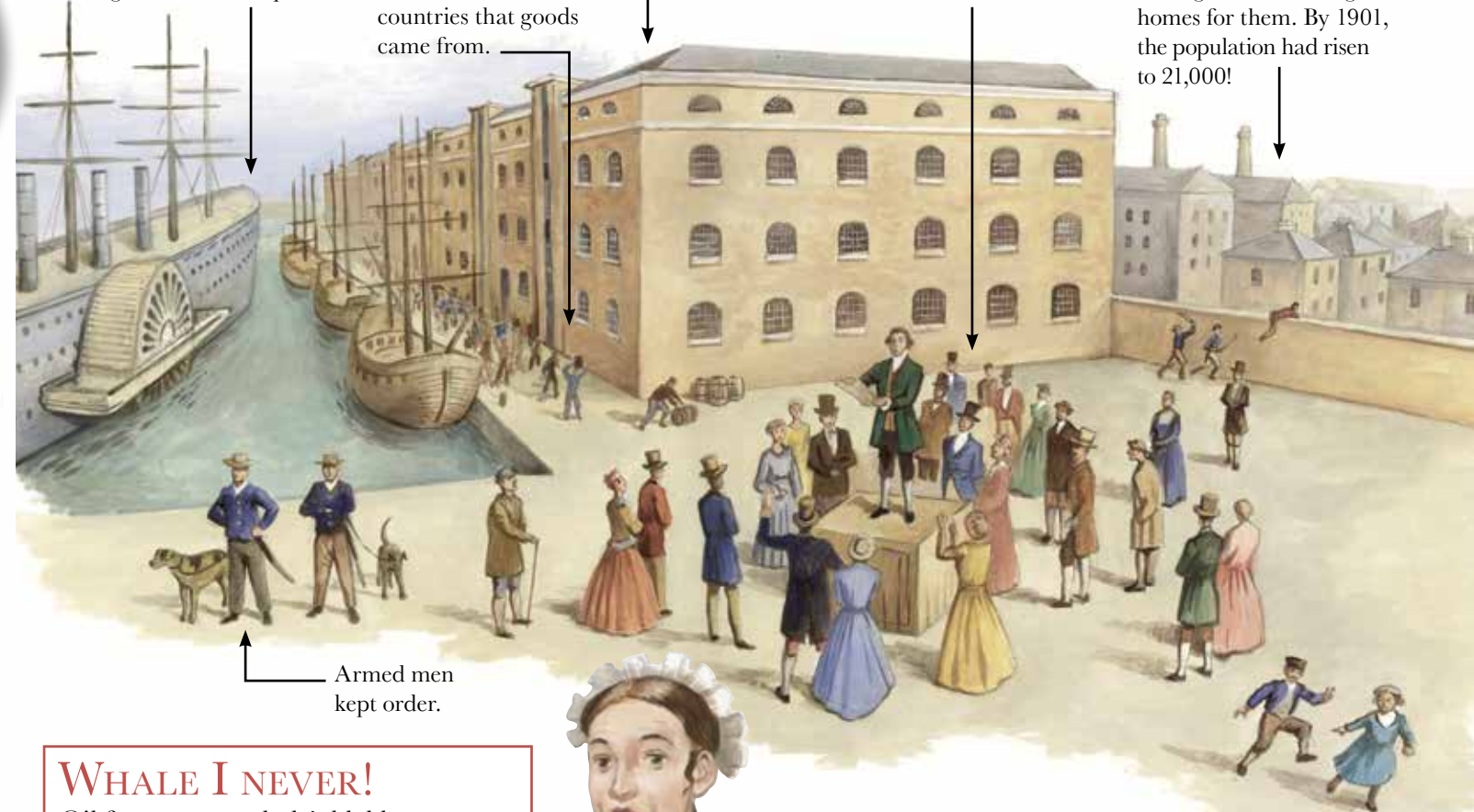
The largest ship of the time was the SS Great Eastern. Built on the Isle of Dogs and launched in 1858, it was 211m long. That's over twice the length of a football pitch!

The new docks, such as West India Docks, were named after the far-off colonies and countries that goods came from.

Children as young as four were forced to work long hours in dangerous factories. Can you imagine that?

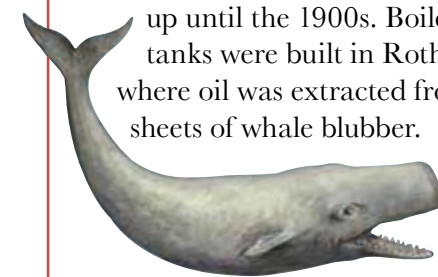
People came to marvel at the new docks.

In 1851, there were 4000 people living on the Isle of Dogs but not enough homes for them. By 1901, the population had risen to 21,000!



## WHALE I NEVER!

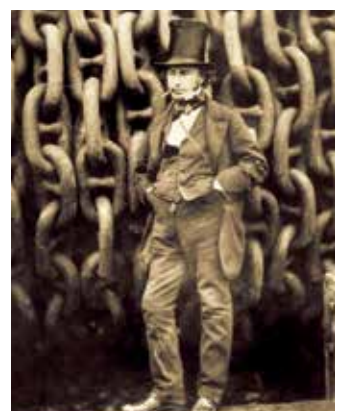
Oil from sperm whale's blubber was used to light factories and homes right up until the 1900s. Boilers and tanks were built in Rotherhithe where oil was extracted from huge sheets of whale blubber.



Whalebone was used to make tight corsets for dresses. Ouch!

## INDUSTRY

Isambard Kingdom Brunel was one of Britain's greatest engineers. With his father, he built the first tunnel under the Thames in 1843. He went on to build the ship SS Great Eastern (see above).



© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London





# THE BLITZ

During World War Two (1939-1945), German aeroplanes bombed Britain – and one of the first areas to be hit was the Isle of Dogs. The bombing was called the Blitz after a German word, “blitzkrieg”: it means “lightning war”. The Germans wanted to destroy the Docklands, its warehouses and its cargoes. The bombs also devastated factories and people’s homes. By the end of the Blitz, in May 1941, thousands of Londoners had died and many people had been made homeless and moved away.



Besides bombs, Londoners had to watch out for planes dropping incendiaries (small fire bombs).

The mega-strong beam of a searchlight could reach 4.5km!

With factories and houses on fire, temperatures reached 1000°C – that’s hot enough to melt aluminium!

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
During the Blitz, London Zoo had to put down all its poisonous snakes and insects in case they escaped!

With their homes destroyed, people had no water to wash, cook or even go to the toilet!

On some Blitz nights, the Thames was at low tide – and that meant firefighters could not get water to put out the fires.

Butter, sugar and oil, that was shipped into the Docks, burned in smelly puddles.

Dogs were heroes in the Blitz. They helped sniff out people buried under rubble.

During the Blitz, King George VI and the Queen visited the Docklands to show their support for local people whose lives had been affected by the bombings.

Fire spread quickly through the tightly packed factories full of timber, paint, engines and flour.

Twenty-eight bombs landed on St Paul’s Cathedral during the Blitz but it survived.

Children older than 16, including Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, helped as messengers and as lookouts for fires.

Posters from the Government reminded people to recycle clothes and grow their own food.

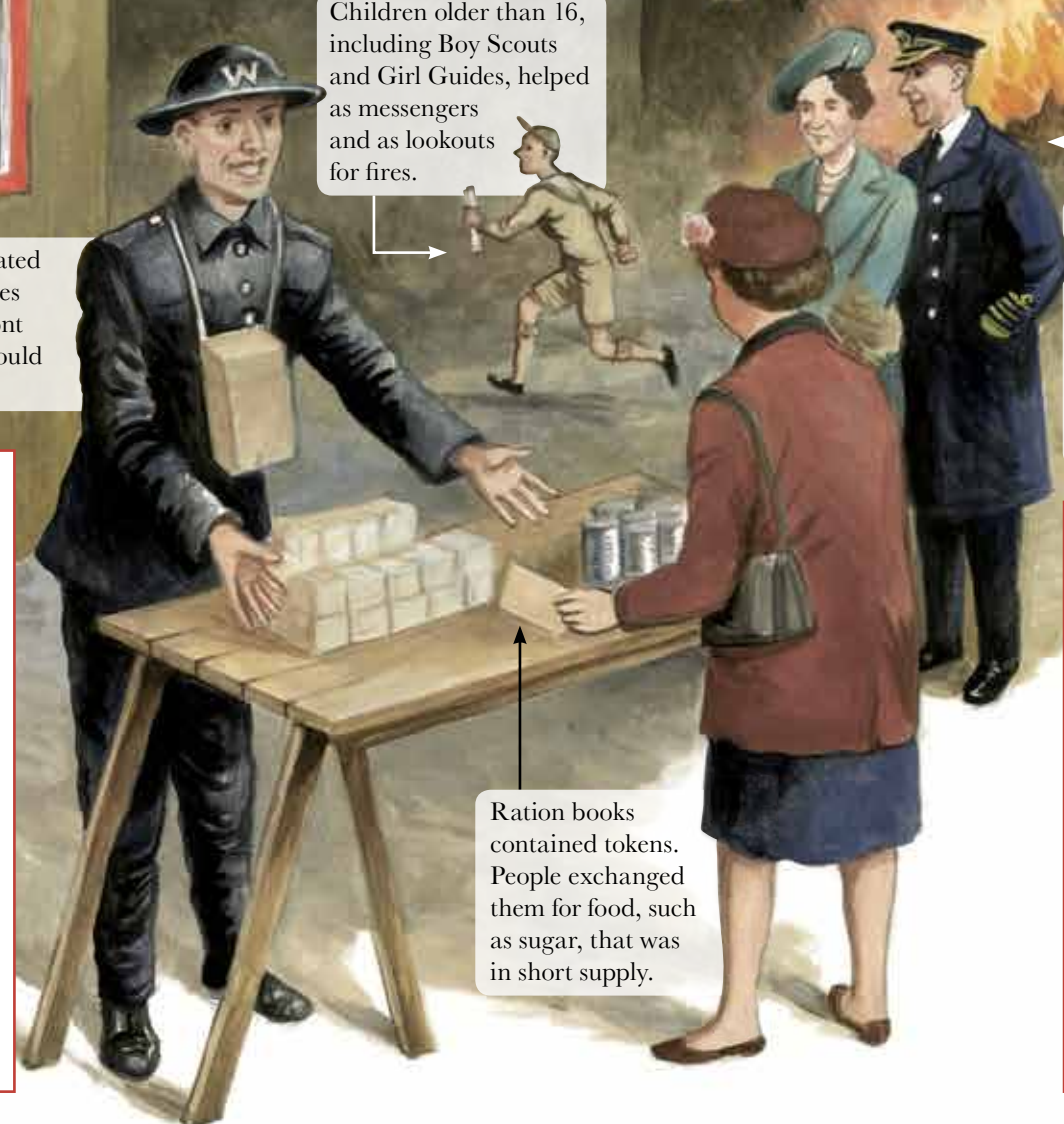


Families evacuated from their homes left notes on front doors so they could be contacted.



**SHRAPNEL**  
A favourite Blitz game was collecting shrapnel – fragments of shells fired by British anti-aircraft guns at the German bombers. The best bit was the shell’s tip, or nose.

Ration books contained tokens. People exchanged them for food, such as sugar, that was in short supply.



**ANDERSON SHELTERS**  
People built Anderson shelters in their back gardens to take cover from bombs dropped in air raids. Shelters were made from steel panels and had a mud floor. They were cramped, smelly and wet!

“I eat rations: baked beans and, if I’m lucky, half a sausage. We have Marmite, too! Our school gives us milk.”

“I always carry my gas mask with me just in case.”

“Mum and Dad keep our air raid bag ready. It contains a torch, spare blankets, candles, matches, ration books and our identity cards.”





# CHANGING DOCKS

The 1970s were tough for the Docklands. Factories moved out and the West India Docks were too small for the new, huge container ships, which took their trade elsewhere. In 1980, the West India Docks closed their gates for the last time. The Government set up the London Docklands Development Corporation to regenerate the area with a new City airport and the Docklands Light Railway (DLR). Change came slowly, though, and the docks remained empty for seven years.



The Queen had a busy year in 1987 – she had to open London City Airport to the public, as well as the DLR!

In 1987, during the official ceremony to mark the start of work on Canary Wharf, protestors released a herd of sheep from Mudchute Farm among the crowds of business people and politicians. And followed that with thousands of bees! Imagine the chaos that caused!

Many locals disagreed with the development and drew graffiti on walls. You can still see some of this graffiti in the area today!

JOBS NOT SNOBS

OUT OF BUSINESS

Between 1966 and 1976, 150,000 people in the Docklands lost their jobs because the docks closed down so quickly.

KILL THE CANARY

SAVE THE ISLAND

The DLR, Britain's first computerised railway, was opened to the public by Queen Elizabeth II on 30 July 1987. It was Britain's first ever train without a driver!



The London Docklands Development Corporation was created by the Government to encourage people to live and work in the Docklands.

Architects and planners came to look around the empty docks.



Mobile phones had only just been invented. They were huge – people nicknamed them “bricks”. They had a battery power of 20 minutes and cost about £1000 each!

By 1980, there was over 20.7km<sup>2</sup> of derelict land in the Docklands area.

As the area changed, new flats were built and young, urban professionals (nicknamed “yuppies”) moved in. They didn't work in industries to do with the docks but in areas such as finance and insurance.



## CONTAIN YOURSELF!

London's docks were used less and less as enormous container ships took over. A container is a large metal box, locked tight so what's inside can't be stolen. Cranes can lift containers off ships and onto lorries quickly and efficiently. The huge, new container ships were just too big for the Docklands' shallow waters.

## DID YOU KNOW?

One of the largest ever container ships, the Matz Maersk, built in South Korea, is a whopping 398m long. That's the same length as 17 tennis courts!



## GETTING TECHNOLOGICAL

Children in the 1980s were the first kids to use computer games as a form of entertainment. Games like Pac-Man and Space Invaders were all the rage!





# REACHING FOR THE SKY

In 1986 an American banker, Michael von Clemm, visited the Docklands. He wanted to build a factory but quickly changed his mind. London's banks needed bigger offices and he thought this huge, empty plot, close to the City, was the perfect place to build majestic skyscrapers for thousands of workers. In 1987, a Canadian company, Olympia & York, began building the project, named "Canary Wharf".

A 1.8km tunnel, known as the Limehouse Link, was opened in May 1993 to provide a connection between central London and the Docklands.

Warehouses and factories were demolished to make way for new flats and office blocks.

Canary Wharf underground station, complete with a rooftop park, was opened in late summer 1999.

In 1992, The Daily Telegraph was the first newspaper to move from the traditional area of Fleet Street to the Docklands. Other papers such as the Mirror followed. By the late 90s, many national newspapers were produced in the Docklands.



## BRINGING TOYS TO LIFE!

The 90s and early 00s brought a wave of new interactive toys, such as Tamagotchis. This hugely popular, digital toy was a virtual handheld pet. It needed feeding, playing with and looking after. Sounds like hard work!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Canary Wharf is named after the old Docklands banana warehouses that traded fruit from the Canary Islands

The distinctive steel pyramid was placed on top of One Canada Square in 1990.

One Canada Square has a sister tower in New York that is the same shape!

At one point, there were about 237 cranes in the Docklands – that's the most cranes ever seen in a development area!

Between 1993 and 2003, the working population of the Docklands grew from 7000 to an impressive 55,000!

Two more towers, 8 and 25 Canada Square, were both completed at the same time in 2001.

Boots was the first retailer to sign up for the new shopping centre.

There is something for everyone in Canary Wharf. An events venue, the East Wintergarden, opened in October 2003. It holds up to 800 people for concerts, plays and other events.

**HANG ON!**  
French stunt climber, Alain Robert, climbed One Canada Square in 1995 without ropes or safety equipment!



## BACK TO THE WATER!

With more people living and working in the Docklands, a lot of leisure activities started. Docklands Sailing and Watersports Centre made a real splash when it opened in 1989.





## CANARY WHARF AREA

Canary Wharf isn't just the tower at One Canada Square. It's a whole area of over 392,545m<sup>2</sup>, filled with state-of-the-art office buildings, theatres, hotels, cinemas, parks, restaurants, stations, shops and more!

### A LOCAL'S VIEW

"Lots of local people worked on the building of Canary Wharf – and they still work here today. We have seen Canary Wharf grow from a few buildings to the wonderful shopping and financial centre it has become today. When the docks closed, who would have believed we would soon have such a wonderful place to work, shop and eat. Lots of jobs have been created – this is a wonderful opportunity for young local people to carve a career on their own doorstep."

**Rita Bensley,**  
**The Association of**  
**Island Communities**  
**Voluntary Council**





# A TOWERING ACHIEVEMENT

The area of Canary Wharf is home to various towers including the tallest of them all – One Canada Square. Huge effort goes into the building and maintenance of a tower. With 9000 people working in One Canada Square alone, there is a lot happening inside. Take a look!

One Canada Square is built so that it can sway 33cm from side to side in the strongest winds!

One Canada Square has a total of 4388 steps.



One Canada Square has 32 passenger lifts, two freight lifts and two lifts just for firemen and women. Going up!

The tower at One Canada Square is an office building so it is not open to the public. You have to work there to see the incredible views stretching more than 30km!



**MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!** Many banking and finance companies have offices in One Canada Square. Canary Wharf is often referred to as “The Second Square Mile”. The original Square Mile is in the City of London and full of financial companies.



**SMOOTH MOVES** Companies move in and out of offices in One Canada Square – as their businesses grow, they need more room. It is not easy to relocate, so companies hire professionals to help.



Do you believe the number 13 is unlucky? At One Canada Square, the 13th floor doesn't contain offices – it's where you'll find all the air conditioning equipment.



**WORK-OUT AT THE WHARF** Canary Wharf is home to a state-of-the-art Reebok gym, where members can enjoy all sorts of sports from golf and football to rock climbing on a 13m-high wall.

Canary Wharf, Heron Quays and West India Quay DLR stations are the world's three closest train stations to be on the same line. Cosy!



Around 4500 people work in the shops at One Canada Square.



**SPECIAL DELIVERY!** Every year, more than 108,000 deliveries are made to One Canada Square's loading bay.

Over 40 million people pass through Canary Wharf underground every year.

The aircraft warning light on top of One Canada Square flashes 40 times a minute. That's 57,600 times a day!



Many onlookers have called the fire brigade to report smoke coming from the top of One Canada Square. But it's actually steam rising from the roof!

One Canada Square's roof is a perfect home for birds, including falcons and swifts. Local children helped to build bird boxes – they are installed on the top of the building.



## HOW MANY WINDOWS?!

Imagine cleaning all of One Canada Square's 3960 windows! Skilled window cleaners do the job every month, moving up and down in an automatic cradle. In winter, the soapy water freezes; in hot summer, it turns to steam. Once a year, absellers clean the tower's pyramid.

One Canada Square has 50 floors and is 244m high. That's taller than 55 double decker buses stacked on top of one another!

More than 27,500tonnes of British steel were used to build One Canada Square.



## THE BIG MARKET

Four floors in One Canada Square have extra high ceilings, for use as stock market trading floors. Computer screens and air conditioning, to keep the traders cool, take up the extra space.

The lifts at One Canada Square can travel from the ground floor to the 50th floor in just 40 seconds. Better than walking up 1000 or so steps!

The average floor at One Canada Square is 2600m<sup>2</sup>. That's as big as six basketball courts.

There are over 500,000 iron bolts used to hold One Canada Square together!



## READ ALL ABOUT IT!

In the 1990s, lots of national newspapers moved into Canary Wharf. The Mirror Group, which publishes The Mirror newspaper, still operates from One Canada Square today.

The water fountain in Cabot Square is controlled by a computer. A sensor detects if the wind is too strong and adjusts the water height so that passers-by don't get drenched!

More than 500 trees such as London planes, English oaks and Norway maples grow around Canary Wharf. Look out for over 20 different varieties!

Around 100,000 people shop at Canary Wharf each day.



**THE WORLD ON A PLATE** You can eat your way around the world at Canary Wharf! There are more than 70 food and drink spots, including British, Italian, Japanese and Malaysian. You're never short of a bite to eat!

More than 50,000 people travel by tube to Canary Wharf every day!



**WHEEL TO WHEEL** Canary Wharf has 3000 car parking spaces – and many cycling tracks if you prefer your bike!



# PEOPLE AND JOBS AT CANARY WHARF

There are thousands of people working in the Canary Wharf estate every single day. There are many different opportunities for people to work in the area, ranging from a chef or journalist to a banker or security guard. Take a look at all the people working in Canary Wharf on these pages. How many of their jobs can you imagine doing when you are older?

**Dave – Crane Driver**  
Dave's crane lifts heavy building materials used for new buildings.



**Lin – Bank Trader**  
Lin works for a bank, buying and selling different investments. Sometimes she will buy and sell £1 billion-worth of stocks and shares in one day!



**John – Cleaner**  
John's job is to keep the buildings sparkling clean and smart.



**Emma – Journalist**  
Emma works for a big newspaper – she finds out the news every day and writes it into an article for tomorrow's front page. When she's written her piece, it goes on the newspaper's website and around the world for millions of people to read.



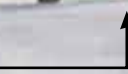
**Tahir – IT specialist**  
Tahir works with computers, writing software to track the stock markets. Some of his computers actually buy and sell shares by themselves!



**Dale – Community Officer**  
Dale works with local community groups and schools, telling them about Canary Wharf. He also helps organise sponsorship of local events.



**Dusty – Environment Expert**  
Dusty is in charge of making sure buildings at Canary Wharf use as little energy as possible. He also helps companies recycle paper and waste they don't need.



**Langson – Intern**  
It's Langson's first day – he's at school normally but today he's doing work experience at Canary Wharf to find out more about a career in business.

**Nicola – Human Resources**  
Nicola helps people get the right job and also sorts out extra training for people who want to learn while they work.

**Susan – Personal Trainer**  
Susan works in a gym and helps people get fit. When she's not working, she's out jogging around Canary Wharf!



**Dan – Window Cleaner**  
Dan cleans the windows on the towers – high up in a cradle hanging 150m above the ground!

**Fiona – Chaplain**  
Fiona's job is to listen to people's problems and help them when they want to talk.



**Jacob – Fashion Store Manager**  
Jacob is in charge of a big clothes shop where more than 100 people work – it's one of the busiest shops on the estate and there is always something new to see!



**Raymond – Chef**  
Raymond works in a busy restaurant making delicious meals for all the hungry workers, as well as visitors.



**Ellie – Arts and Events**  
Ellie puts together all the equipment for music and video shows in Canada Square Park and the East Wintergarden.



**Jack – Pirate**  
Jack's not really a pirate! He works for a law company. He's on his way to a work event in fancy dress!



**Abad – Gardener**  
Abad keeps the trees pruned, the grass short, the flowers growing and the paths clear – it's an all-year-round job for him!



**Fatima – Security Guard**  
Fatima and her dog make sure everyone at Canary Wharf is safe. They also help visitors find their way around.



**Dustin – Maintenance**  
Dustin's job is to fix things when they go wrong. A broken pipe, a light which has stopped working – no job is too hard for him!





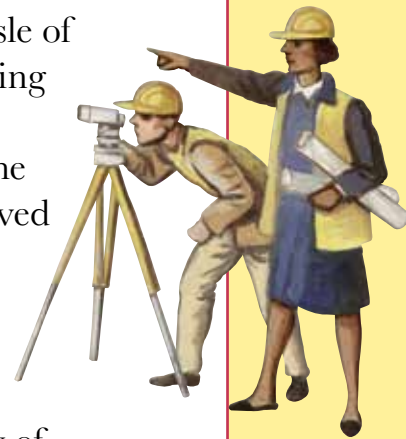


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For over 400 years, London's Canary Wharf and the Isle of Dogs have been a place of great change. Never standing still for long, the area changed rapidly from open marshland and became one of the busiest ports in the world. During its colourful history, the area has survived flooding and fires, pirates and protesters. Now, though, Canary Wharf is one of the greatest commercial and business districts in the world.



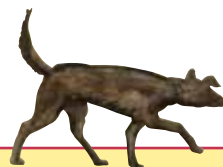
This book takes you on a journey through the history of Canary Wharf, and introduces you to some of its characters and adventures, which have helped make it the vibrant area it is today.



An accompanying teachers' guide can be downloaded from  
**[www.canarywharf.com](http://www.canarywharf.com)**



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GROUP PLC



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ISBN 978-0-9563648-0-7



ISBN 978-0-9563648-0-7  
£4.99 RRP