

# A look at an alternative London (a worksheet)

## Activity 1

Listen to the song, write down all the words you associate it with.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

What city is this song about?

## Activity 2

What famous places in London do you know?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 3

Look at the map and mark where these sights are located:

1.	The Houses of Parliament	2.	Trafalgar Square
3.	the Shard	4.	St. Paul's Cathedral
5.	Hyde Park	6.	Buckingham Palace



Check with the map - <https://www.londoncitybreak.com/map>

## Activity 4

London has been the focus for some questionable urban design ideas over the years. The developer Barratt Homes has created images of several proposals of where they would have stood. These rejected architecture and transport plans give a glimpse of how different the city would be now.

*Look at the pictures. What do you think the names of these ideas are? Where were they supposed to be?*



	Name	The place
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

*Read the text and check your guesses.*

### **Westminster City Airport**

A 1934 plan proposed the Thames itself host a new airport, directly next to the Houses of Parliament in between Westminster and Lambeth bridges. It was to be tall enough for ships to pass under it and suitable for single-propeller airplanes.

### **The Trafalgar Square ziggurat**

In the early 19th century, Sir Frederick William Trench, an MP and soldier, had an idea to commemorate the defeat of the French at the recent Battle of Trafalgar and the earlier Battle of the Nile.

His idea? A pyramid at the top end of Whitehall. Blueprints show that it would have been taller than St Paul's Cathedral, with 22 steps – one for each of the years the English and French had fought in those conflicts. Instead, the land was cleared and a statue of Nelson installed. The dream of a London ziggurat was over.

### **The central London monorail**

Nearly 50 years ago, with bus use falling and cars clogging up the streets, London briefly toyed with the idea of scrapping many of the buses entirely, and replacing them with (sing it) a monorail ... monorail ... monorail!

The monorail would have four large loops. Despite that early political support, the plans were quietly abandoned within a couple of years.

### **The Victorian skyscraper**

After the Great Exhibition of 1851, there were a number of plans for what to do with the structure (originally located in Hyde Park, but subsequently moved to Sydenham, in what is now known as Crystal Palace Park).

One idea was to build London's tallest skyscraper: Charles Burton drew up a plan for a 1,000 ft high building, would now make it 100ft higher than the Shard. There were to be "vertical railways" (we might now call them elevators) to the summit, and a giant clock halfway up.

### **Sources:**

[https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2018/nov/09/trafalgar-pyramid-a-look-at-an-alternative-london?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other&fbclid=IwAR0N-tjYSzFBg79ER7dOiBbpjPg\\_eQ7DYbATu90HR0sfOQZfQ6B3JrhMP8](https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2018/nov/09/trafalgar-pyramid-a-look-at-an-alternative-london?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other&fbclid=IwAR0N-tjYSzFBg79ER7dOiBbpjPg_eQ7DYbATu90HR0sfOQZfQ6B3JrhMP8)

## **Activity 5**

*Read the text again and choose the word that best matches the definition.*

1. a railroad system that has a single rail often above ground level, or the train that travels along it.

- A. defeat
- B. monorail

- C. loop
- D. skyscraper



2. a very tall modern building, usually in a city:

- |           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| A. loop   | C. blueprint  |
| B. defeat | D. skyscraper |

3. a photographic copy of an early plan for a building or machine:

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| A. giant  | C. blueprint |
| B. defeat | D. loop      |

4. extremely large:

- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| A. giant  | C. clog |
| B. defeat | D. loop |

5. the curved shape:

- |           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| A. loop   | C. blueprint  |
| B. defeat | D. skyscraper |

6. losing against someone in a fight or competition = the opposite of victory:

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| A. clog   | C. commemorate |
| B. defeat | D. abandon     |

7. to remember officially and give respect to a great person or event:

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| A. clog    | C. commemorate |
| B. abandon | D. blueprint   |

8. to leave a place, thing, or person, usually forever:

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| A. commemorate | C. giant   |
| B. loop        | D. abandon |

9. to become blocked or filled so that movement or activity is difficult:

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| A. clog    | C. monorail |
| B. abandon | D. defeat   |

10. The peak of something:

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| A. summit | C. clog      |
| B. loop   | D. blueprint |

## Activity 6

*Answer the questions:*

1. How big would Westminster City Airport be?
2. Why did Sir Frederick William Trench want to build a pyramid?
3. Why did the designer want to build a monorail?
4. How many loops would there be in London motorail?
5. Would the Victorian skyscraper be the tallest building in London now?
6. Which ideas do you like/don't like? Why (not)?
7. What is a ziggurat?
8. What is the Great Exhibition?

## Activity 7

*Follow the plan and create your own alternative London*

1. Choose a landmark.
2. Create a design idea.
3. Give a name.
4. Draw a picture.
5. Write 5 sentences describing your idea.

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