

London Bridge

?

Did you know there has been a bridge here for over 2000 years?

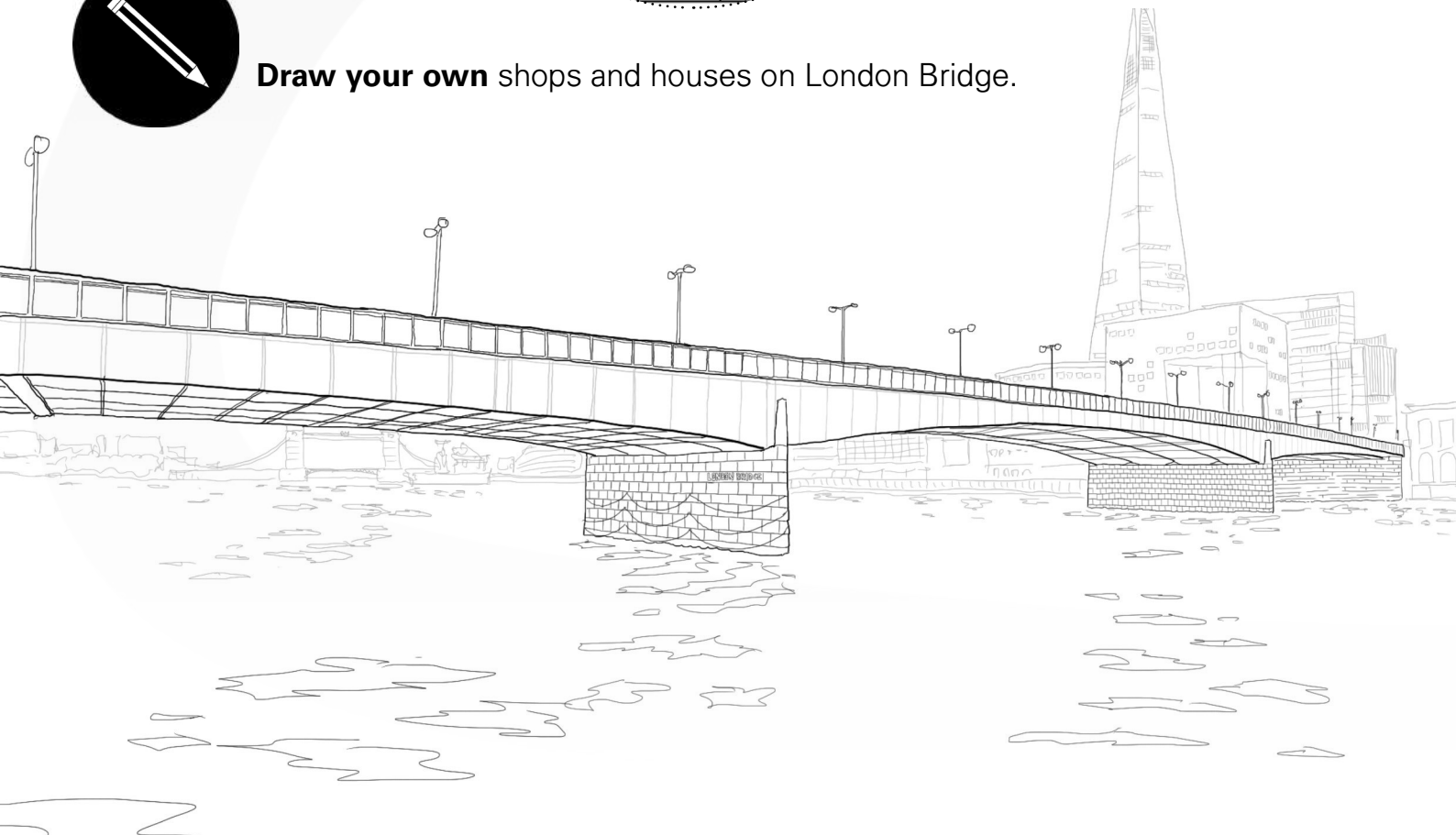
Can you imagine the Vikings, Saxons, Romans and Tudors who crossed the river here – what do you think they were like?

?

Did you know that in the Tudor period, London Bridge was crammed with over 600 houses and shops! It got so busy they had to make a rule to 'keep left' when crossing, and that's why we drive on the left side of the road today.



Draw your own shops and houses on London Bridge.



Cannon Street Railway Bridge

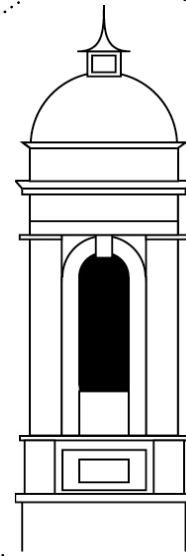
?

Do you know what 'Cannon Street' is named after?

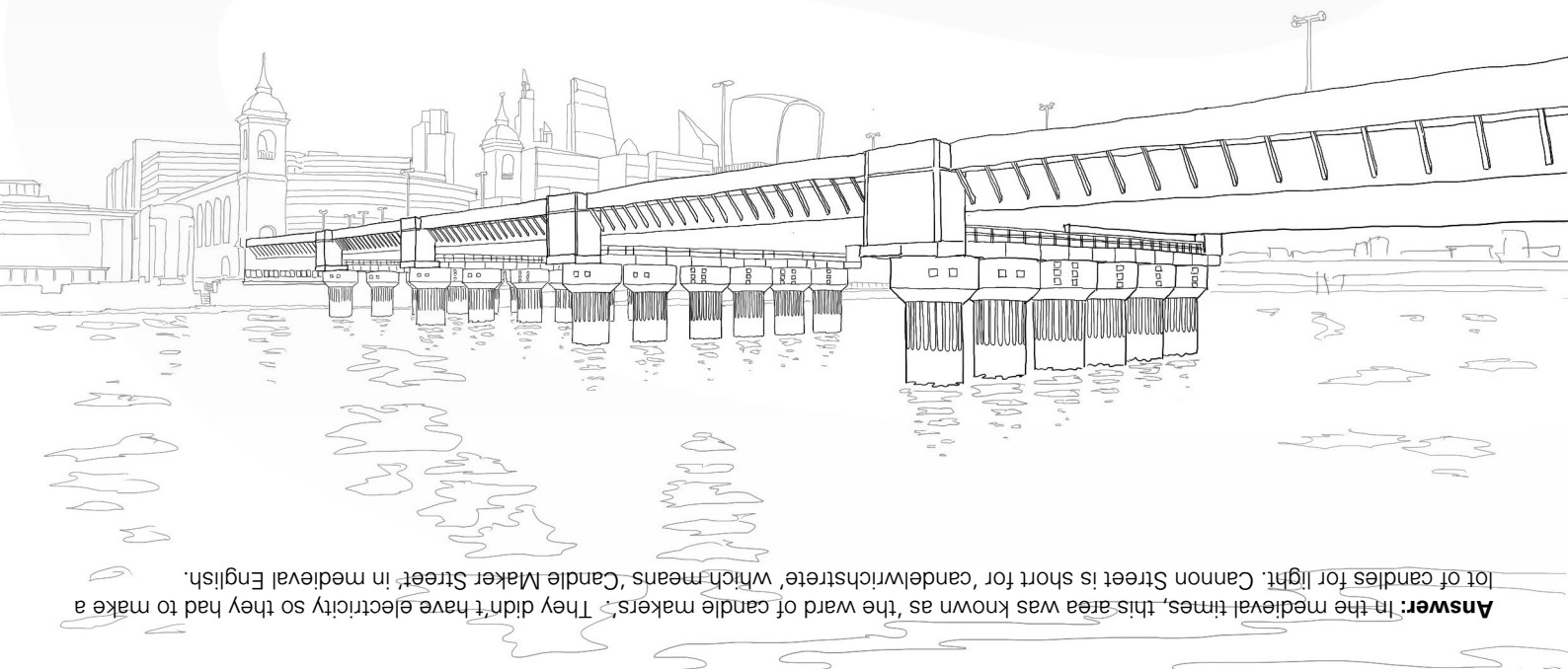


Can you see the two towers at the end of Cannon Street Bridge?

These are filled with water, which is converted into energy that powers the lifts in Cannon Street Station.



Draw your own train on Cannon Street Bridge.



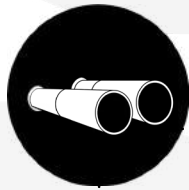
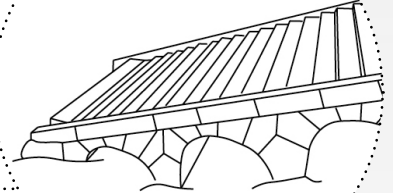
Answer: In the medieval times, this area was known as 'the ward of candle makers'. They didn't have electricity so they had to make a lot of candles for light. Cannon Street is short for 'candelwrichstrete' which means 'Candle Maker Street' in medieval English.

Southwark Bridge



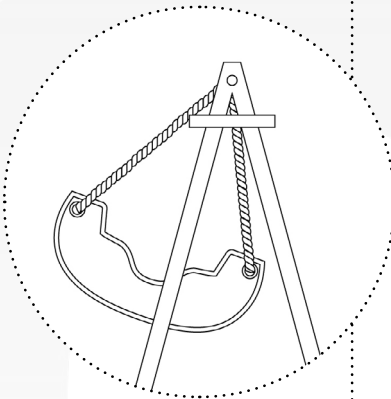
Can you see the old stone steps on the south side of Southwark Bridge where watermen used to land and moor their boats?

The watermen were like the taxi drivers of the Thames, and transported people up and down the river in small boats called 'wherries'.

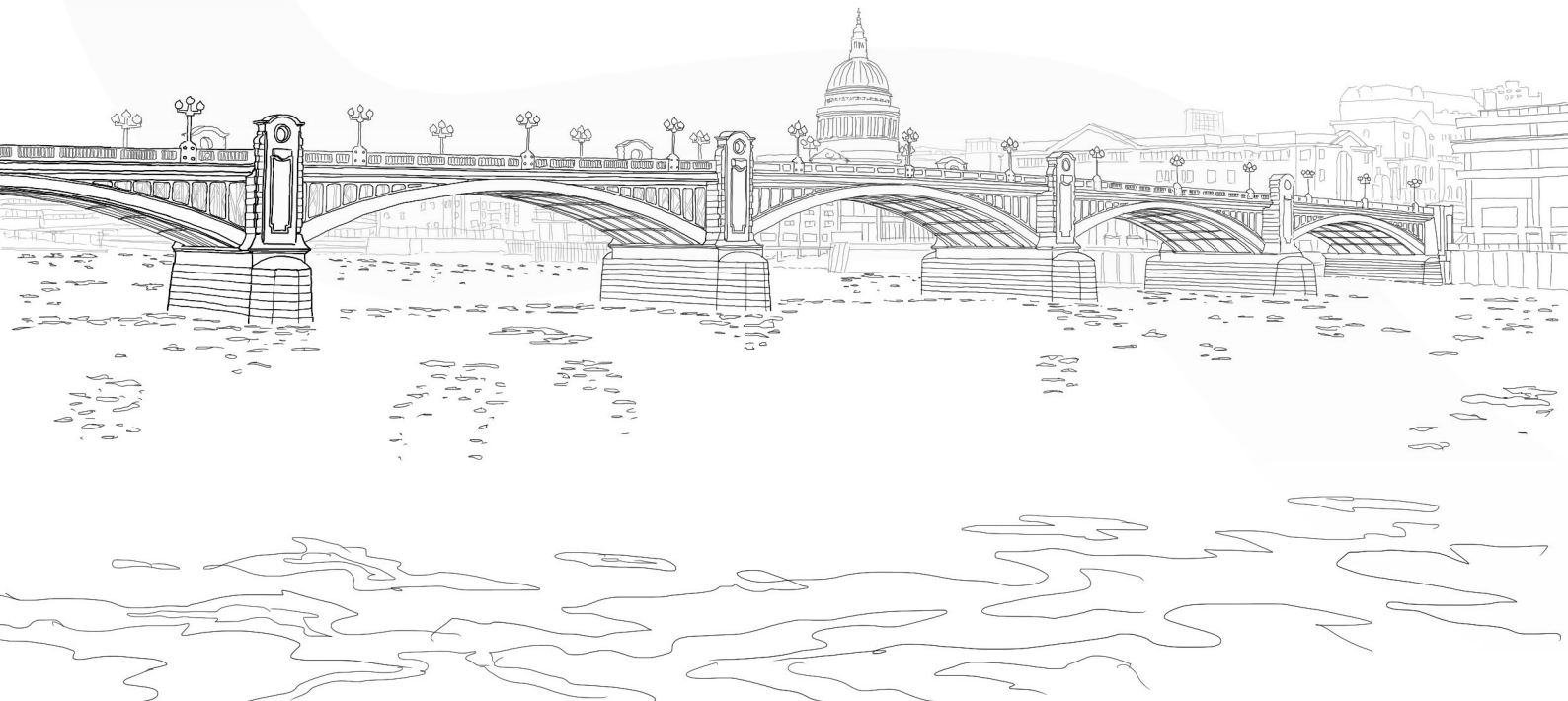


Can you see the mural in a tunnel under the north landing of Southwark Bridge showing the 'Thames Frost Fairs'?

Two hundred years ago, the Thames used to freeze over completely when it got cold, and people would hold fun fairs on the ice – with ice skating, pubs and fairground rides, including swings made out of watermen's boats. Once, King Henry VIII rode in a sled all the way from here to Hampton Court Palace on the frozen Thames.



Draw your own Thames Frost Fair.



Millennium Bridge



Can you find the hundreds of tiny drawings made out of chewing gum on the deck of Millennium Bridge?

How many can you find?

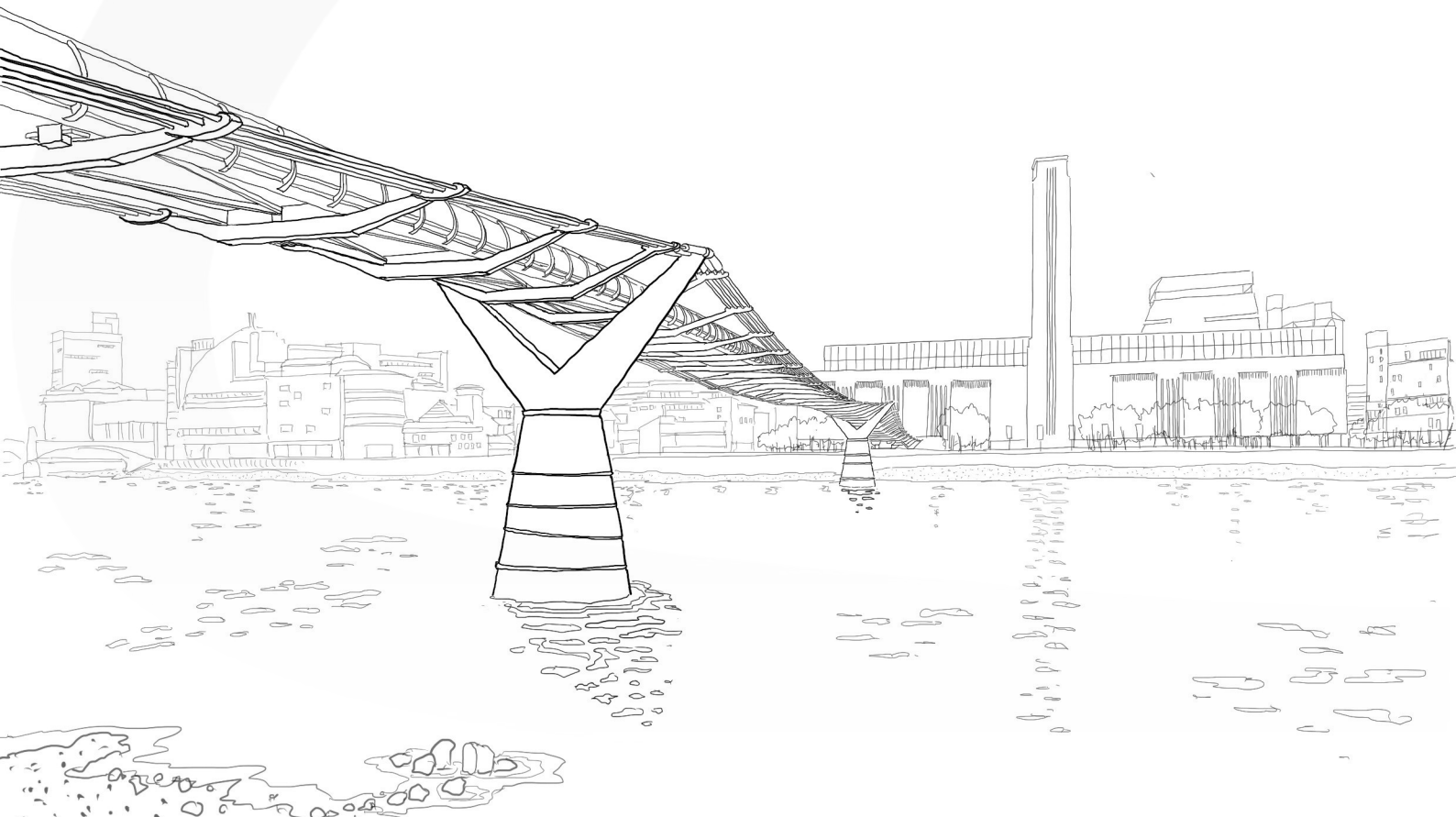
Answer:



Did you know the design for this bridge was inspired by comic book Superhero 'Flash Gordon' who travelled so quickly through outer space he looked like a 'blade of light'.



Draw your own Superhero crossing Millennium Bridge.



Blackfriars Road Bridge



Did you know Blackfriars Bridge is the historic 'tidal turning point' where the Thames turns from the sea into a river.

The bird sculptures on the East side of the bridge are sea birds looking out to sea, and the birds on the West side are freshwater birds. How many birds can you see?

Answer:



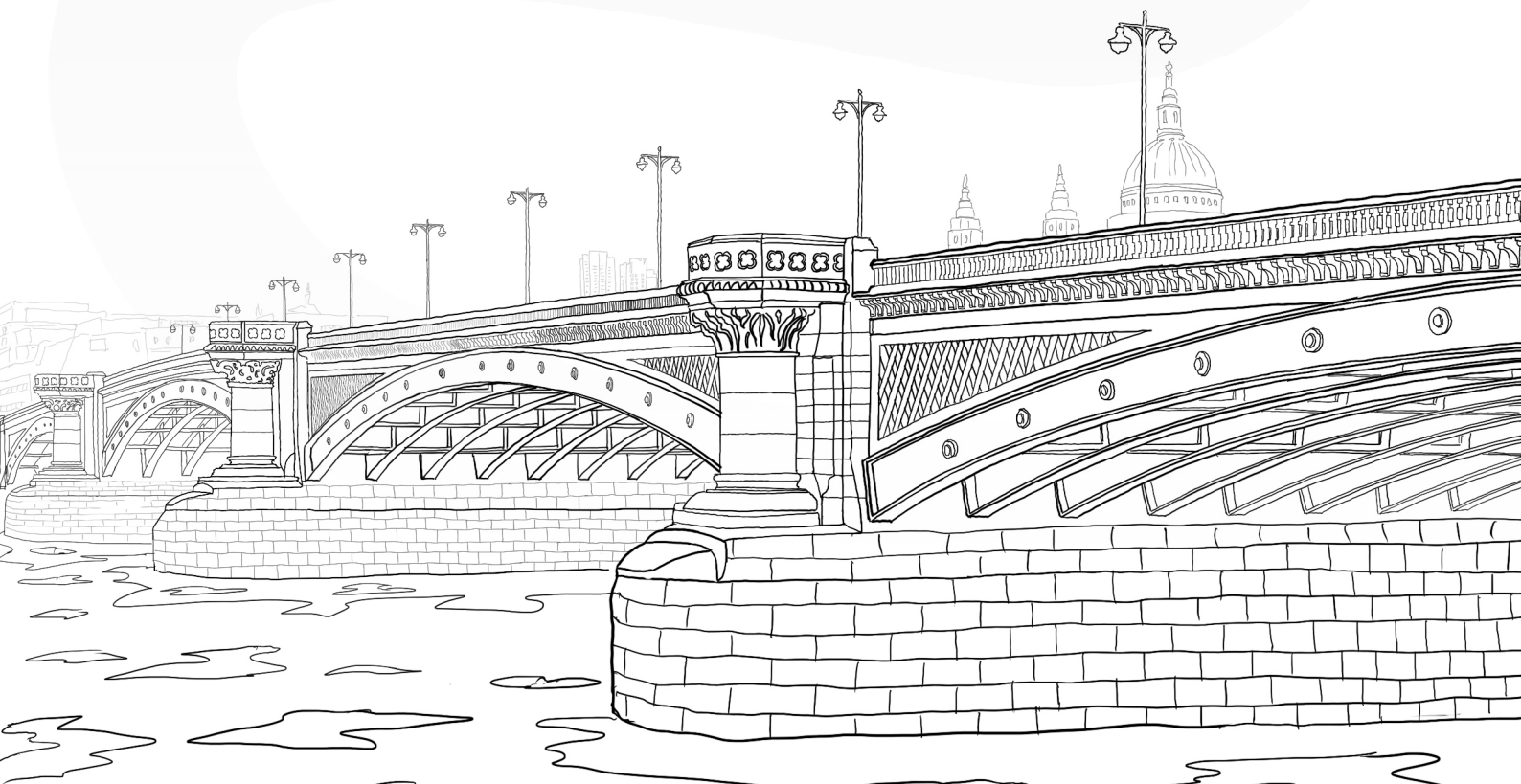
Can you find the sign for the old London, Chatham and Dover Railway from 1864 that used to be here?



Can you see the red pillars still standing from the old Blackfriars Bridge? How many are there? Why do you think they haven't knocked them down?



Draw your own river and sea creatures on Blackfriars Bridge



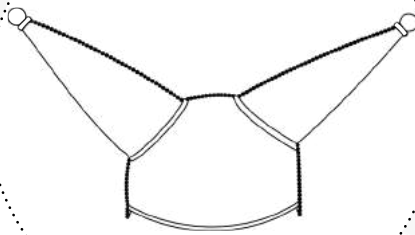
Waterloo Bridge

?

Did you know that Waterloo Bridge was mostly built by women during World War Two, when many men were off fighting in the armed forces.

?

Did you know that in 1868, a spectacular Iron Age horned helmet dating 150-50BC was found under Waterloo Bridge. It is nicknamed the 'Waterloo Bridge Helmet' and is in the British Museum. There has been lots of treasure found in the Thames from thousands of years of history. What else do you imagine is down there?



Draw your own Thames Treasure.



Golden Jubilee Footbridges

?

Whose 50th Anniversary were the Golden Jubilee Footbridges built to celebrate?

?

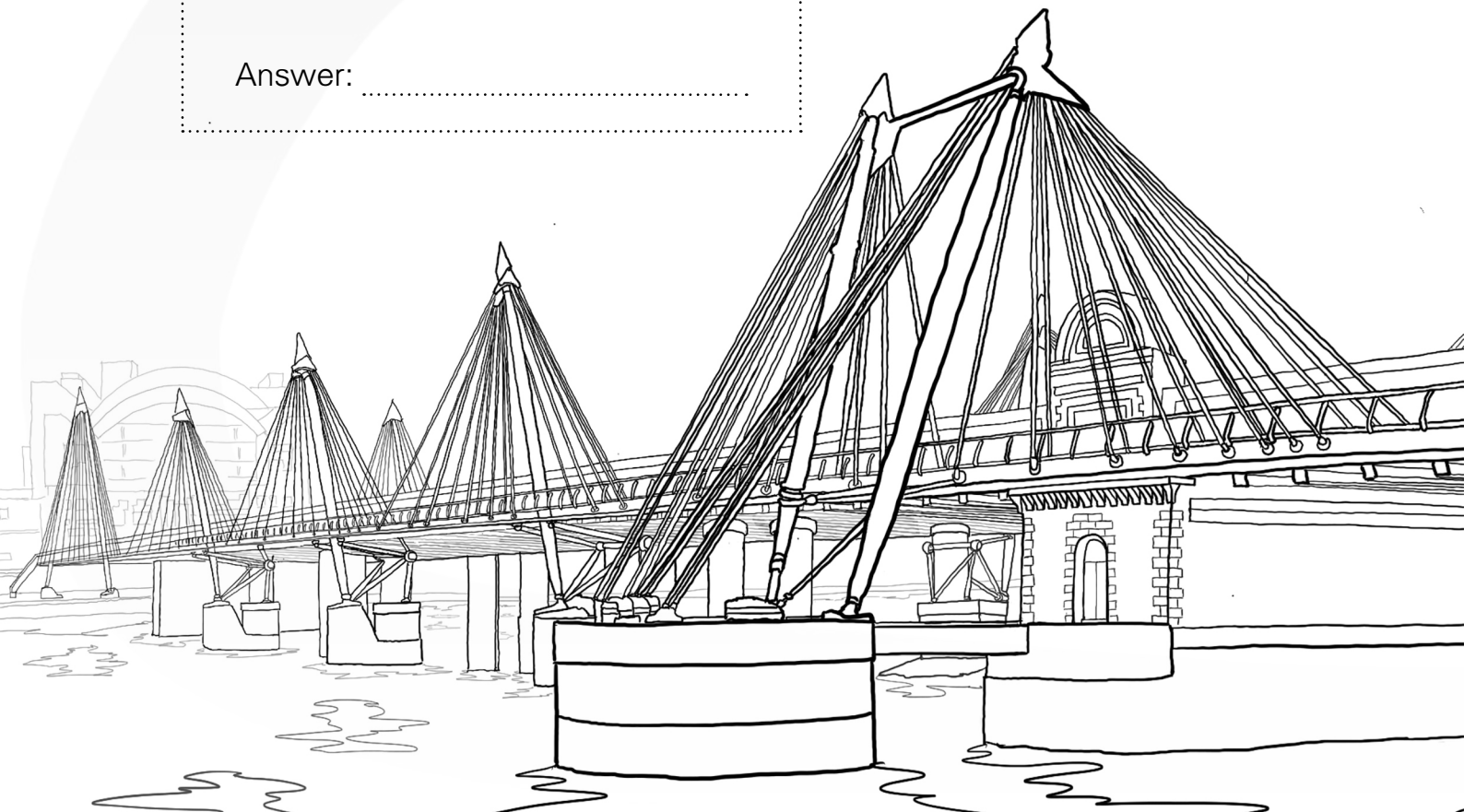
Did you know building this bridge was really difficult, because the Bakerloo and Jubilee tube lines run underneath the river here.

They were also scared they might find unexploded World War Two bombs in the river!

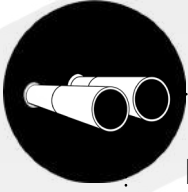


How many suspension cables can you count on the Golden Jubilee Footbridges?

Answer:

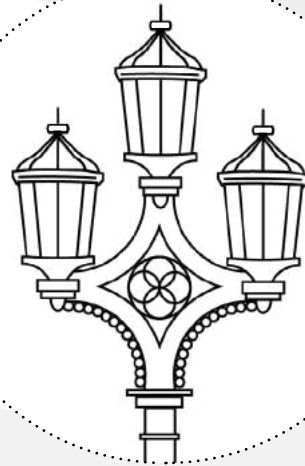


Westminster Bridge



How many glass lanterns can you count on Westminster Bridge?

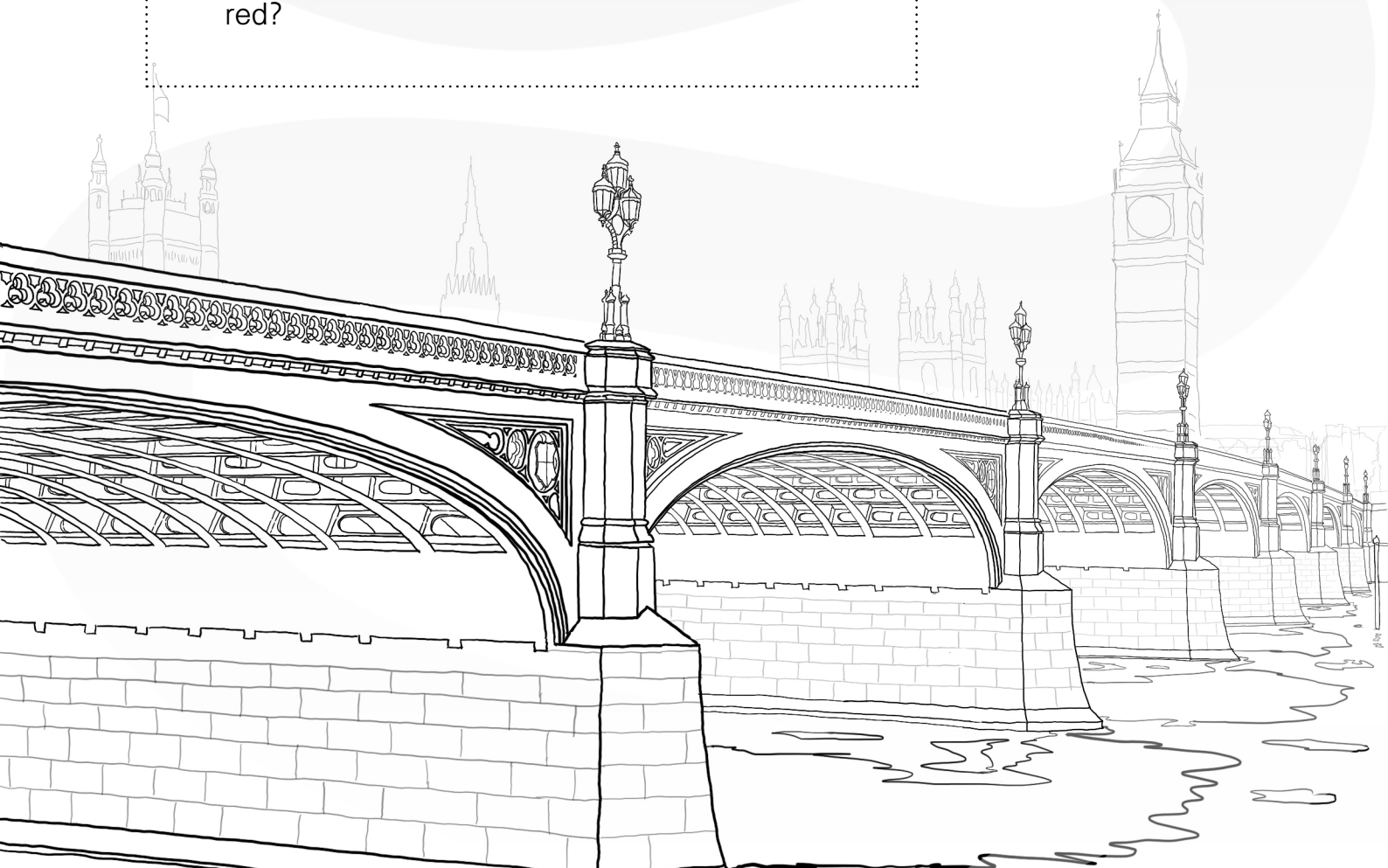
Answer:



Can you see the Houses of Parliament?



Do you know why Westminster Bridge is painted green and Lambeth Bridge is painted red?



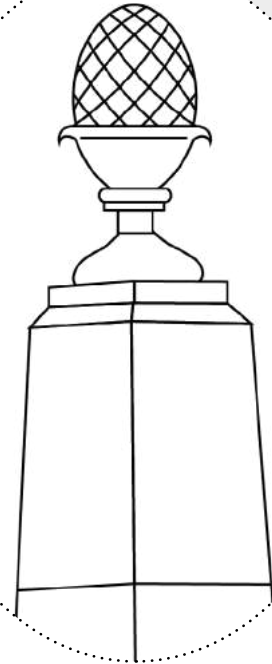
Answer: The colour of these bridges match the seats of the House of Commons (green) and the House of Lords (red) which make up the Houses of Parliament. Can you see the Houses of Parliament?

Lambeth Bridge



Can you find the pineapples on top of the obelisks at each end of Lambeth Bridge? How many pineapples can you find?

Nobody knows why these pineapples are here. One idea is that they are the symbols of John Tradescant, who was a gardener to King Charles I and his wife Queen Henrietta Maria of France. The Tradescant family are thought to have grown the first pineapples in England, bringing them over from the Caribbean. The Tradescant estate used to be where the Garden Museum now stands.



Did you know that for a long time, if you wanted to cross a bridge over the Thames you had to pay a toll.

How much do you think they charged?

Answer:

Lambeth Bridge

?

Did you know before Lambeth Bridge was built, people would cross the river here on a 'horseferry' that transported people and their horses.

It was the only place you could cross the Thames on a horse and cart. It was a bit choppy though, and many people are rumoured to have fallen in the water from the ferry, including Oliver Cromwell, King James I, and at least one Archbishop!



Draw your own horseferry for crossing the river.

