

River Thames Timeline Cards



43AD

The Romans settle.

They find the first suitable place that the River Thames can be crossed and call it Londinium.



50AD

The first crossing is built.

The first 'London Bridge' is built. A simple crossing over the river.



1014

King Ethelred invades.

He sailed up the Thames tearing part of the bridge down.



1078

The Tower of London is built.

The Tower is built to watch over enemy approaches to London by river or road.



1176

The first London Bridge is commissioned.

King Henry II commissions the first London Bridge that also had many buildings and houses built on it!



1300s

The Woolwich Ferry begins to cross the river.

The Woolwich Ferry is still in operation today!



1510

Licences for passenger transport are granted.

They were granted by the King, Henry VIII.



1633

The old London Bridge catches fire.

Fire destroys most of the buildings at the city end of the bridge.



1666

The Great Fire of London takes place.

The Thames provides water for firefighting and a means of escape as people fled to the river to try to escape by boat.



1700s

Frost Fairs start to be held.

These were fairs held on the river when the Thames froze over.



1758

Old London Bridge buildings are demolished.

An act of parliament led to the demolishing of all the buildings on the bridge.



1815

Passenger steamboats are introduced.

These were the main form of transport for passengers until the emergence of railways.



1830

The new London Bridge is built.

Eventually, a new bridge needed to be built and this was done alongside the old bridge.



1853-1854

Cholera outbreak.

This was stopped by John Snow's work on the Broad Street Water Pump.



1858

The Great Stink!

The smell from the sewerage in the Thames gets so bad that parliament pass an act to create an underground sewerage system.



1868/9

Abbey Mills is opened.

The new pumping station opens to allow sewage to be put into the Thames further away from the centre of London.



1878

The Princess Alice paddle steamer disaster takes place.

Near to Beckton sewage treatment works, 600 people are thought to have died by drowning or poisoning.



1894

The Tower Bridge is opened.

The largest bascule bridge in the world in its time is opened. The bascules are the two central lower parts that lift up for tall boats and ships to pass under the bridge.



1908

The Port of London Act is brought in.

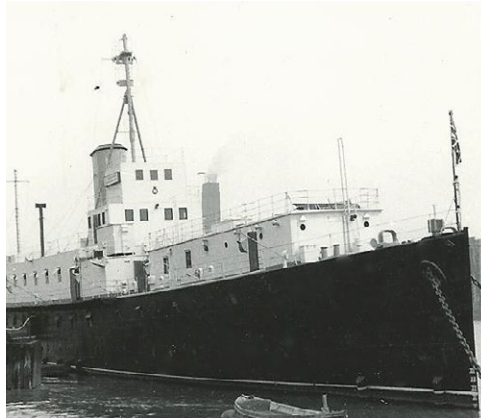
The Port of London Authority created the act to look after the river and lower pollution.



1914-18

First World War takes place.

German U-Boats are captured in the Thames in 1918. After the war, the Thames War Memorial commemorating the First World War is situated in



1939-45

Second World War takes place.

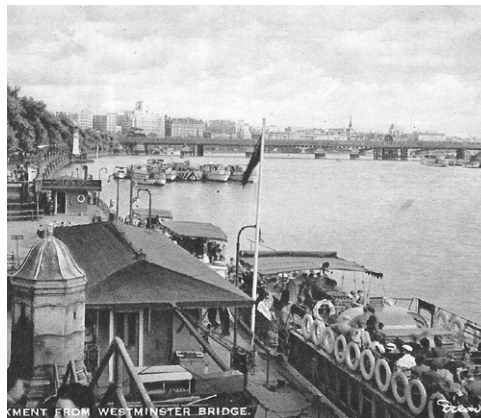
The Thames and its docks suffered a lot under heavy bombing raids. Nearly 900 missiles, as well as thousands of incendiary bombs, hit the docks. Maunsell Forts were built in the Thames Estuary.



1950s

Rebuilding work begins.

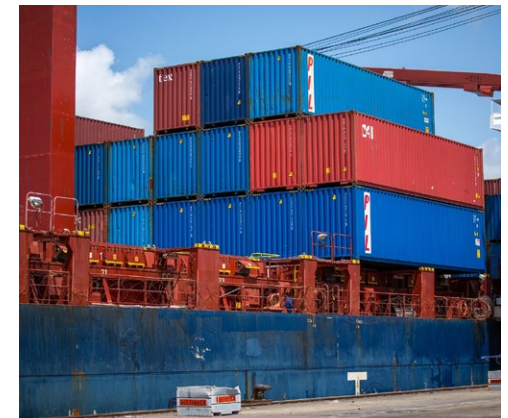
After the Second World War, many buildings and embankment areas needed to be rebuilt because of bombing damage.



1960s

A decline in the docks.

The docks were in decline due to the introduction of containers being able to carry a huge amount of cargo in one go.



1967

The current London Bridge is built.

The previous bridge was sent brick by brick to America where it was reconstructed.



1974

A stone is placed at Thames Head.

The stone reads: 'The conservation of the River Thames 1857-1974.'



1977

Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee.

Tower Bridge was painted red, white and blue to mark the occasion.



1983

The Thames Barrier is completed.

The barrier is in Woolwich and is made up of ten gates to stop potential flooding.



1989

The Marchioness disaster.

The Marchioness was a pleasure boat hired for a party that collided with a dredger and sank. 51 people drowned.



2000

The tradition of New Year fireworks begins.

Since 2000, the embankment of the Thames has been host to the grand new year firework display including fireworks set off from on the water in boats. It is watched by millions of people all over the world.



2000

Millennium Bridge opens and closes.

A footbridge over the river from Queenhithe to Bankside is opened but closed on the opening day as it was too wobbly!



2002

Millennium Bridge reopens.

The bridge reopens after two years of work to make it more stable.



2012

**Queen Elizabeth II's
Diamond Jubilee.**

The Thames was used as a key part in the celebrations including a stage for a flotilla of 1000 boats.



2016

**Queen Elizabeth II's
90th Birthday.**

A flotilla of ships led by Gloriana sails down the Thames in celebration.

