

## ONCE UPON A.... TOWER OF LONDON TIME—LINE



**1066-87** Construction of the Tower of London begins sometime during the reign of William the Conqueror.

**1204** King John ships three boatloads of wild animals back to England during his retreat from the Norman territories—the possible start of the Royal Menagerie.

**1210** Earliest surviving record of payments to animal keepers at the Tower.

**1240** Henry III orders that the central keep be whitewashed inside and out, according to the latest fashion. Though the whitewash is long gone, the name the White Tower remains to this day.

**1251** Henry III receives a “white bear” and its keeper from Norway.

**1255** An African elephant arrives from Louis IX of France.

**1381** Wat Tyler leads what becomes known as the Peasants’ Revolt. A mob marches to London in protest against a poll tax, several hundred of whom storm the Tower. A number ask the King’s mother to kiss them, and the Archbishop of Canterbury is killed.

**1539** The first record of official torture taking place at the Tower.

**1553** The Tower Mint becomes the sole place where English coinage can be struck.

**1554** Princess Elizabeth (the future Elizabeth I) is imprisoned for two months while she is questioned about her knowledge of plots against her half-sister, Mary I.

**1592** Sir Walter Raleigh is imprisoned for marrying one of Elizabeth’s ladies-in-waiting without the Queen’s permission.

**1603-16** Raleigh is imprisoned again, for treason.

**1618** Raleigh’s third and final stint in the Tower, this time for deliberately inciting war between Spain and England. He is executed in Westminster in the same year.

**1640** The last official record of torture at the Tower.

**1671** Colonel Blood and his gang attempt to make off with the Crown Jewels.

**1780-1** Henry Laurens, a powerful merchant from South Carolina is the first and last US citizen to be imprisoned at the Tower. He is held on suspicion of high treason for his part in the American struggle for independence from Great Britain.

**1811** Martin, the first grizzly bear seen in England, is presented to George III by the Hudson Bay Company.

**1828** A secretary bird puts its head into the hyena den and is deprived of it in one bite.

**1829** Over 160 animals are catalogued in the menagerie, including a pig-faced baboon, 100 rattlesnakes, and two llamas.

**1830** *The Times* announces that 150 of the menagerie's animals are to be presented to the newly formed Zoological Society of London.

**1835** The menagerie is closed.

**1941** Deputy Führer Rudolph Hess is interrogated for four days at the Tower after crash-landing in Scotland. Josef Jakobs, a sergeant of the German Meteorological Service is executed as a spy in the rifle range. It is the last execution inside the Tower.

**2006** The Ravens who usually roam freely by day are locked up in the Upper Brick Tower during the avian flu outbreak.

**2010** More than two million people will visit the Tower of London.

