

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## BIG BEN



**Use your research skills to answer the questions.**

1. Where is Big Ben located? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is Big Ben? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the size of Big Ben? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who may visit the clock tower? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which political institution shares a building with Big Ben?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Who designed the clock tower, and when? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is an interesting fact about this landmark?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Would you like to visit this landmark? Why or why not?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **ANSWERS TO *BIG BEN*:**

1. Big Ben is located in the Palace of Westminster in London, in Great Britain.
2. The name Big Ben refers to the bell, but it is also used to refer to the clock and the bell tower as well.
3. The tower is about 316 feet tall, about 16 stories. The original bell weighed 16 tons. The current bell weighs about 13.5 tons (13.7 to be exact). The clock faces are set in a 23-foot diameter frame.
4. Currently, only residents of the United Kingdom may visit the clock tower.
5. The Houses of Parliament shares a building (the Palace of Westminster) with Big Ben.
6. Augustus Pugin designed the clock tower, which was built after a 1834 fire destroyed the palace. Big Ben the bell rang for the first time in 1859.
7. Possible interesting facts (accept all true stories) about this landmark include:  
Big Ben is the most famous symbol of London.  
According to a survey, it is the best-loved building in London.  
The Palace of Westminster was damaged by bombs during World War II, but the bell continued ringing and the clock never stopped.  
The first bell cracked beyond repair while being tested. The second bell also cracked, but it is still used despite the crack.  
The lights in the clock tower were turned off in WWI to avoid guiding Zeppelin attacks, and in WWII to avoid guiding enemy bombers.
8. *Answers will vary. Accept reasonable answers.*