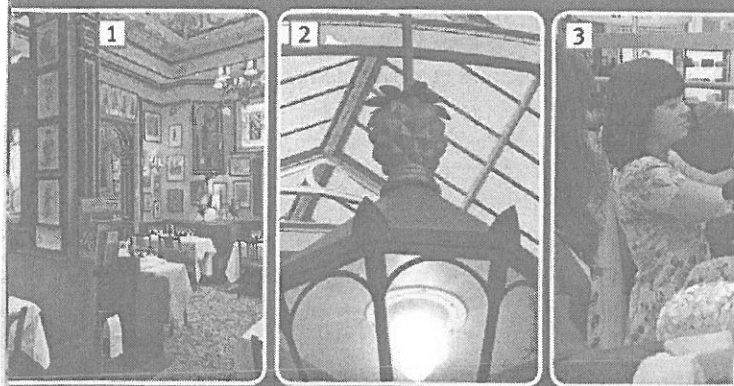


The one and only ...

# Covent Garden!

London



## A Flowers, fruit and vegetables

In the 17th century, Covent Garden was the biggest and most important flower, fruit and vegetable market in Britain. It was also one of the first markets to start selling pineapples. For this reason, the pineapple became the market's logo. Today there is no longer a fruit and vegetable market at Covent Garden but you can still see pineapples as part of the architecture.

## B Eating and drinking

Around 1700, workers at the market often went to a pub called Lamb and Flag to drink beer or gin after work. (It wasn't safe to drink water!) They sometimes saw illegal boxing matches there for that reason, the pub's nickname was the 'Bucket of Blood'. The pub is still open today. The oldest restaurant in London, Rules, is in Covent Garden. It has been open since 1798 and serves traditional English food, including pies and puddings.

## C Entertainment and shopping

Covent Garden is the only venue in London where buskers and other street performers are allowed to work. A lot of people watch them perform there, so there are auditions and only the best artists can perform. Bon Jovi once busked there in front of a very surprised audience! In fact, if you want to spot a celebrity, Covent Garden is a good place to start. Singer Lily Allen owns a clothes shop there, and if you can't afford the outfits, you can hire them just for a night.

## Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace is the official city residence of the Royal Family in London. The palace is a place for grand occasions and royal weddings. It is also a workplace, where all the official administration is done. There are offices and lots of staff. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, it is also a family home.

Buckingham Palace was built as a town house in the early eighteenth century. King George III bought it for his wife and children. Queen Victoria made Buckingham Palace the main royal palace in 1837 and made it bigger for her growing family. Queen Elizabeth II also lived there as a girl.

The Palace has 775 rooms. These include 19 State Rooms, 52 bedrooms for the Royal Family and guests, and 78 bathrooms. There are another 188 bedrooms for the people who work there. There are also 92 offices, a cinema, a police station, a post office and a sports centre!

The State Rooms are not usually open to the public because they are used by the Royal Family to receive guests on important state occasions. For a long time the Ballroom was the largest room in London. It has many famous paintings and is the place used to host wonderful parties. Over 50,000 people arrive each year as guests of the Royal Family.

Although Buckingham Palace is the main working palace for the Royal Family, they also have other residences, such as Balmoral in Scotland. During August and September the Royal Family stay at Balmoral, so when tourists visit Buckingham Palace at this time they can see the State Rooms too.

- 1 Why did the pineapple become the logo of Covent Garden?
- 2 Why did workers at Covent Garden not drink water?
- 3 What was the nickname of the Lamb and Flag pub? Why?
- 4 When did the oldest restaurant in London open?
- 5 How many places are there in London where people are allowed to perform in the streets?
- 6 What can you do if the outfits in Lily Allen's shop are too expensive for you to buy?

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1 Buckingham Palace isn't only a place of work.		
2 Buckingham Palace was built by King George III.		
3 There are more bedrooms for palace staff than for the Royal Family.		
4 The Ballroom used to be where the Royal Family had grand parties.		
5 The Royal Family don't live in Buckingham Palace all year round.		
6 Buckingham Palace is not open to the public.		