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Cool Things about the TOWER OF LONDON

伦敦塔十大酷事

As a palace, the Tower of London was a great place to live in. As a prison, it wasn't so nice—especially since so many prisoners lost their heads! The place has been a lot of things in its nearly 1,000-year-old history. Today tourists can explore the Tower, in England, in the United Kingdom. Here are ten reasons why the Tower was—and still is—a cool place to be (as long as you weren't a prisoner, that is).

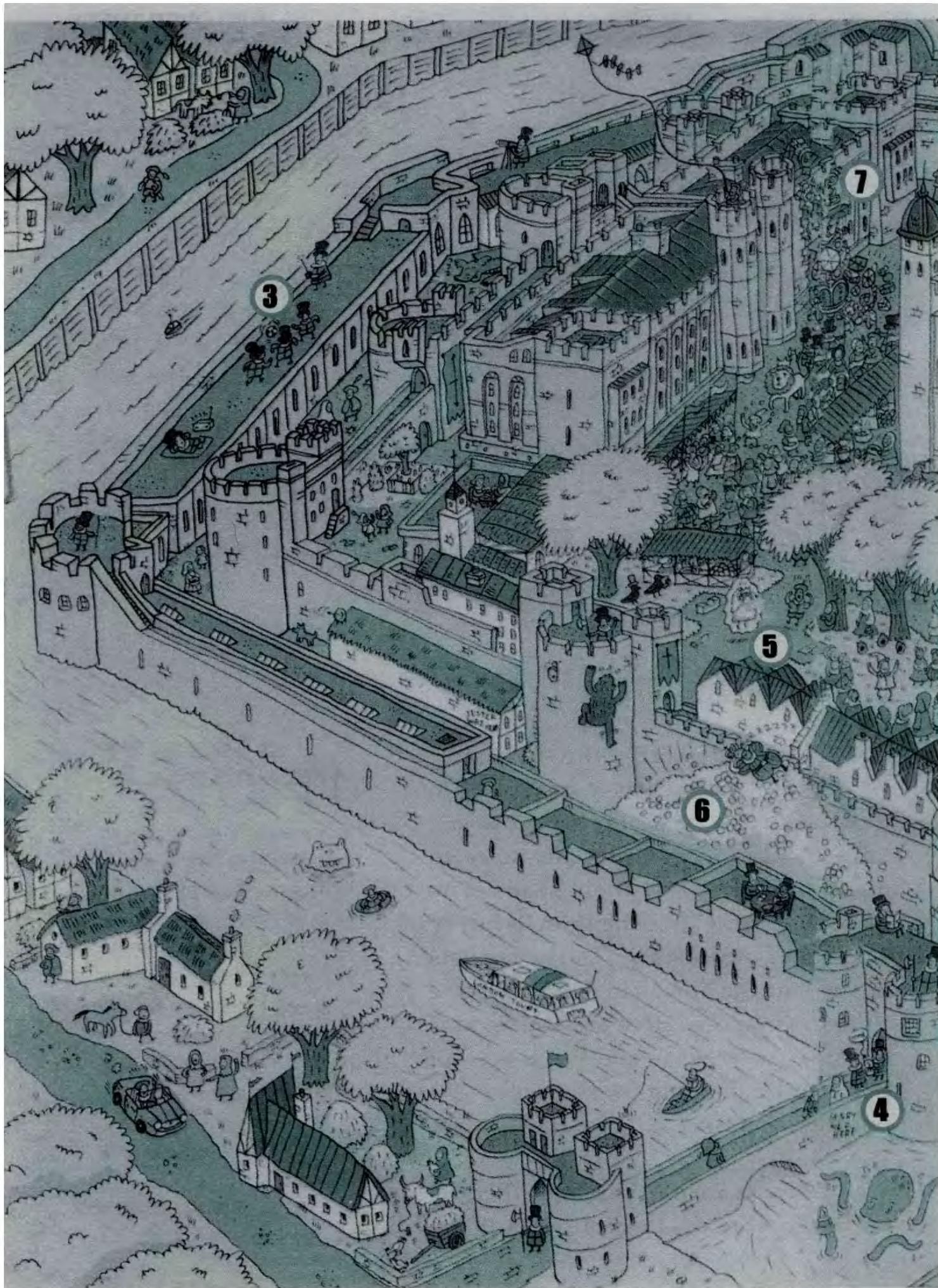
① Ravens are like local superheroes. Well, sort of. Legend says if the

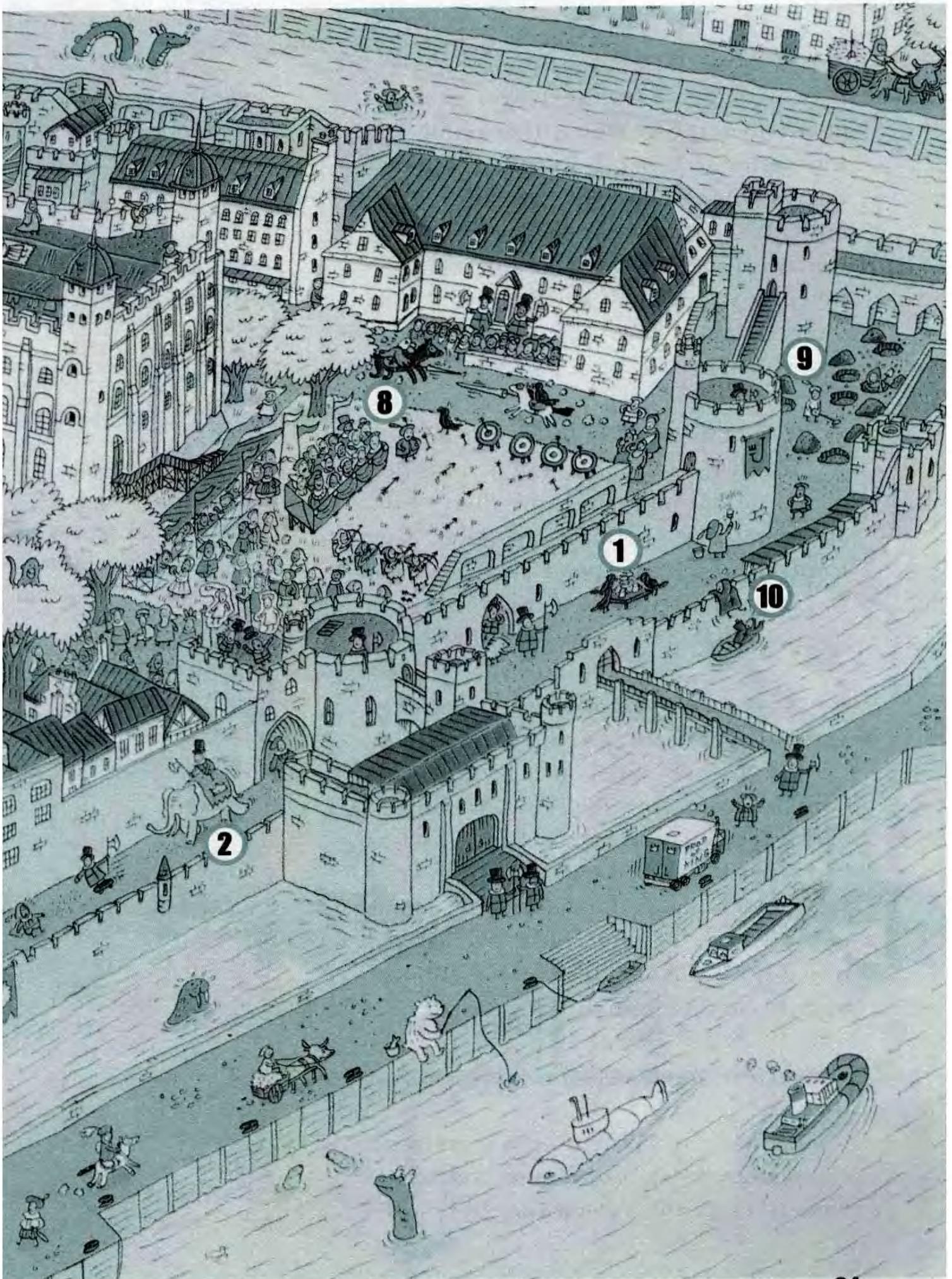
到英国旅行一定不能错过闻名遐迩的伦敦塔。伦敦塔官方名称为“女王陛下的宫殿与城堡 (Her Majesty's Palace and Fortress)”，始建于1078年，在历史上既是王宫，又作过法院和监狱，如今已成为对外开放的博物馆，以无数珍宝和神秘的传说吸引着络绎不绝的游客。

作为一座宫殿，伦敦塔实属超级宜居；作为一所监狱，那就不敢恭维了——尤其是许多囚犯在此掉了脑袋之后！经历近千年的风风雨雨，伦敦塔的轶事一言难尽。如今，位于英国英格兰的伦敦塔已对游客开放。无论过去还是现在，伦敦塔都是一个绝对让你大开眼界的地方（只要你不是囚犯，必持如是观点），以下即为十大理由。

① 乌鸦在此被奉为超级英雄。

嗯，近乎事实。根据传说，生活在塔里的乌鸦一旦





ravens that live on the Tower grounds ever leave, the Tower will crumble and a disaster will befall England. No one knows when the ravens first showed up, but Charles II took the legend so serious that in the 1670s he decreed¹ that six ravens be kept there all the time. Today there are still always six — plus a couple of spares, just in case.

② You might have lived at a zoo.

In 1204, King John kept a collection of animals, including lions, leopards, and elephants. About 50 years later, King Henry III received a polar bear. The bear was kept on a leash² so it could fish from the Thames River that flows by the Tower.

③ If you lived at the Tower today, your mom or dad might be in charge.

The 35 Yeoman Warders³ and their families are among the few still allowed to live at the Tower. Established in 1509 as bodyguards for the king, today they give tours and manage the day-to-day details of the Tower. They're called "beefeaters," possibly because their job once allowed them to eat beef from the king's table.

④ You need a secret password at night.

Called the "Word," the password changes every 24 hours and is a must-have to enter the Tower after hours. It's

飞离，伦敦塔就会倒塌，灾难必将降临英国。谁也不知道乌鸦们何年何月来到伦敦塔，而查理二世一本正经地把传说当真，竟然在17世纪70年代敕令伦敦塔内必须始终饲养6只乌鸦。时至今日，塔内仍有6只乌鸦——外加几只后备，以防不测。

② 伦敦塔曾是动物园。

1204年，国王约翰养了一批动物，包括狮子、豹子和大象。大约50年后，亨利三世得到一头北极熊。熊拴在一根皮带上，可以从流经伦敦塔的泰晤士河里抓鱼。

③ 如果住在伦敦塔里，双亲很可能是守卫。

如今只有一小部分人可以居住在塔内，其中包括35位伦敦塔卫士及其家属。1509年伦敦塔卫士是国王的保镖，今天他们却是导游，兼管塔内日常事务。他们又被称为“吃牛肉的人”，也许是因为这个职业曾经获得御用牛肉配给。

④ 夜晚进出需要秘密口令。

被称为“暗号”的口令每24小时换一次，下班后进出伦敦塔必须知道口令。口令写在一张纸

written on a piece of paper and delivered to the Yeoman on duty for the night.

5. You might see a ghost.

Queen Anne Boleyn, who was executed⁴ on orders from her husband, King Henry VIII, is said to wander the grounds without her head. One building is believed to be so haunted⁵ that dogs refuse to enter.

6. You could've been rich.

During Henry VIII's reign, the Tower housed the Royal Mint⁶, which produced England's silver coins. It's said the staff worked so hard that when one employee finally got a break, he slept for 15 days straight.

7. You'd have lots of bling⁷.

England's crown jewels are still guarded in the Tower's Jewel House, a dazzling display of crowns, robes, jewelry, and scepters⁸ that goes back hundreds of years. More than 23,500 diamonds, sapphires⁹, rubies¹⁰, and other gems adorn¹¹ the royal collection.

8. You might have met a celebrity.

In the 1400s, King Henry VI hosted

条上,交给当晚值班的卫士。

5. 可能遇见鬼。

王后安妮·波林被她的丈夫——国王亨利八世下令处死,据说无头的她常在伦敦塔里游荡。有一幢建筑物因为闹鬼太厉害,连狗狗都不愿意入内!

6. 可能发大财。

在亨利八世统治期间,皇家铸币厂就设在伦敦塔,为英格兰制造银币。据说员工工作很辛苦,一旦有机会休息,可以足足睡上15天。

7. 珠宝如山。

英国王室的珠宝仍然存放在“伦敦塔珍宝馆”,里面的金银财宝令人眼花缭乱,有王冠、王袍、珠宝及权杖等,都是具有数百年历史的古董。王室珍藏着23,500多颗钻石、蓝宝石、红宝石以及其他宝石。

8. 邂逅名人。

15世纪,国王亨利六世喜欢主持规模宏大而喧

1. decree [di'kri:] v. 颁布

2. leash [li:f] n. 拴猎狗的皮带

3. yeoman ward 伦敦塔卫士

4. execute ['eksɪkjʊ:t] v. 处死

5. haunted ['hɔ:ntɪd] adj. 闹鬼的

6. mint [mɪnt] n. 铸币厂

7. bling [blɪŋ] n. 锦衣珠宝

8. scepter ['septə] n. 权杖

9. sapphire ['sæf,arɪə] n. 蓝宝石

10. ruby ['ru:bi] n. 红宝石

11. adorn [ə'dɔ:n] v. 装饰; 装扮

huge, noisy tournaments, in which knights with long lances¹² jousted¹³ on horses. The more lances a knight could break while knocking his opponent from the saddle, the more famous he became.

9. You could find buried gold.

In 1662, a goldsmith named John Barkstead supposedly hid more than \$40,000 worth of stolen gold somewhere on Tower grounds. Many have searched for the loot¹⁴, but it has never been found.

10. You'd never have to worry about a prison break.

The Tower was so secure only a few escape attempts succeeded. In 1716, one man sneaked out dressed in women's clothing. In 1100, a prisoner threw such a wild party for guards they didn't notice him climbing over the wall to meet a waiting boat!

闹不堪的玩命大赛,让手持长矛的骑士骑马比武。哪名骑士把对手撞下马鞍所折断的长矛越多,他就越出名。

9. 脚下藏黄金。

传言1662年,一个名叫约翰·巴恩斯特德的金匠把偷来的价值4万多美元的黄金埋藏在伦敦塔某处地下。许多人企图找到这笔不义之财,可惜竹篮打水一场空。

10. 越狱不是一个传说。

伦敦塔固若金汤,成功越狱者屈指可数。1716年,一名男子男扮女装偷偷溜走。1100年,一名囚犯为看守举办了一场盛大的派对,守卫们过于陶醉,竟没注意到这名囚犯爬过围墙,围墙下面有一艘船正等着接应他!

12. lance [læns] n. 骑士、骑兵等的长矛

14. loot [lu:t] n. 赃物

13. joust [dʒaʊst] v. (骑士)骑马用长矛比武

Think & Grin 想一想 笑一笑

The Dentist's Bill

A woman received a huge dental bill and phoned her dentist about it.

"I'm shocked!" she complained. "This is three times what you normally charge!"

"Yes, I know," said the dentist, "but you yelled so loud that you scared away two other patients and I had to make it back up somehow!"