

# Contents

## 6 About 3000 years ago ...

A group of farming people have decided to build a settlement on the banks of a river.

## 8 More than 1000 years later ...

The remains of the farming village are now buried beneath the paved streets of a busy Roman town.

## 10 About 500 years later ...

A people from northern Europe have arrived and built a small village on the edge of the old city.

## 12 About 250 years later ...

The Viking town is made up of neat rows of cottages with thatched roofs.

## 14 About 400 years later ...

The small cottages of Viking times have been replaced by larger and sturdier timber-framed buildings.

## 16 Nearly 400 years later ...

A small fire has broken out in the bakehouse ...

## 18 Later that night ...

Fanned by an eager wind, the fire has quickly spread to other nearby buildings. The city is an inferno!



## 20 The next morning ...

The city lies in ruins, with only the walls of some stone buildings standing among the charred timbers.

## 22 About 120 years later ...

The city has been rebuilt and is, once again, a busy centre of commerce. The streets are wider and the houses are made of brick.

## 24 A hundred years later ...

The industrial age has arrived. The city has expanded hugely as people have come to work in the factories.

## 26 The year 1940

War has broken out and the city is under attack from the air.

## 28 Today

The city has many new buildings. Cars and trams take people across the city, while some streets are reserved for pedestrians only.

## 30 Glossary

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# Introduction

Imagine you are standing on a riverbank somewhere in Europe thousands of years ago. Some farmers make a small settlement there, taking advantage of the fertile land and plentiful supply of fish in the river. Over the centuries, others find the site favourable too. It is a good place to build a bridge and a port.

Soon a town grows up, eventually becoming a bustling city.

The story told in this book is like a journey. It is not a journey you can make by plane, car or ship. In fact, you don't have to go anywhere at all. You are about to travel through *time*. With each turn of the page, the date moves forward a few hours, years or even centuries. Each new date—each stop on your journey—is like a chapter in the life of the city. The early days as a small farming settlement by the banks of the river, the Roman town, the medieval walled city with its cathedral and castle, the day, years later, when a great fire nearly destroyed it all, the rebuilding, the dark days of World War II bombing, the modern buildings of today—all tell the story of the city.



Look out for the baker. He appears in all of the illustrations. You should be able to identify him from his bright red hair!

Use this thumb index to travel through time! Just find the page you want to see and flip it open. This way you can make a quick comparison between one scene and another, even though some show events that took place many years apart. A little black arrow on the page points to the time of the scene illustrated on that page.



As towns grew into larger cities, they became centres not only for trade and business but also for art, culture and learning—just as they are today. Although crowded, unhealthy and dangerous, the city was the place to be for fashion, theatre and other entertainments.

# Nearly 400 years later ...

Darkness falls one warm summer's evening in the mid-1600s. Since our last visit to the city, the population has grown once more. A number of people have become wealthier and now live in grander, more comfortable houses.

But, despite the city's prosperity, disease and vermin are still rife. Tonight, the plague doctor is going on his rounds, and it has been a busy day at the apothecary's (chemists).

Crime is another part of city life. A gang of smugglers down at the quayside is about to be surprised by soldiers. Robbers lurk in dark alleys and fights are breaking out at the inn.

Meanwhile, the baker retires to bed, unaware that a small fire has broken out in the bakehouse below . . .



Cathedral

Castle

City walls

Theatre

Bridge

Robber

Bakehouse

Apothecary

Inn

Soldiers

Smugglers

Sweep

Plague doctor



1000 BC



AD 120



AD 620



AD 870



1270



1650