

can you find?

The UK Parliament is made up of three parts – the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the Monarch (the King or Queen).

The Palace of Westminster is another name for the Parliament buildings because Kings and Queens used to live here. The last Monarch to do this was King Henry VIII.

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Westminster Hall

The carved angels high up in the roof. More than 600 tonnes of wood was used to create the roof beams.



St Stephen's Hall

The crack in the blade of the sword on the statue of Falkland. On the foot, you will see a broken spur. This is where a suffragette (a woman campaigning for the right to vote) chained herself to the statue as a protest and had to be cut free.



Members' Chamber

The Dispatch Box where MPs lean when they are talking in the House. The box contains a number of holy books.



Members' Lobby

The mark on the door where Black Rod bangs to gain entry to the Commons.



Robing Room

The original Palace burnt down in 1834. When it was rebuilt Queen Victoria was on the throne and her initials, VR, are throughout the Palace.



Royal Gallery

The artist who created the two biggest paintings didn't sign his works. Instead, he painted a glass into them somewhere.



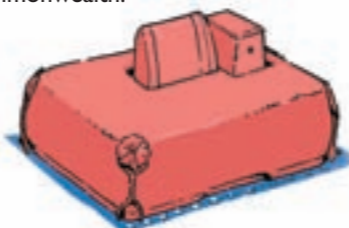
Princes' Chamber

The symbols for England, Scotland and Ireland are dotted around this Chamber.



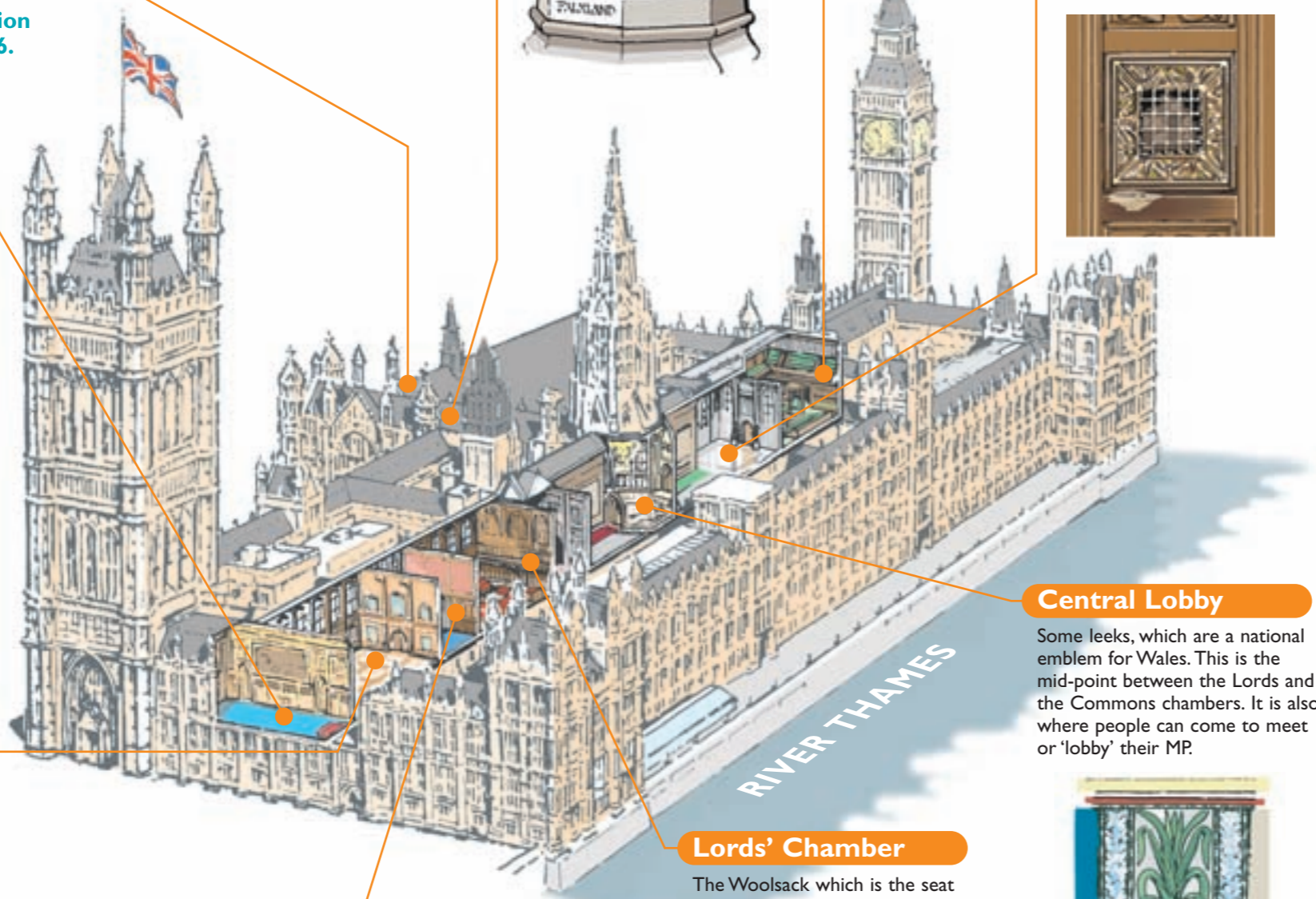
Lords' Chamber

The Woolsack which is the seat of the Lord Speaker. It is a large cushion of wool covered in red cloth. It is stuffed with wool brought from around the Commonwealth.



Central Lobby

Some leeks, which are a national emblem for Wales. This is the mid-point between the Lords and the Commons chambers. It is also where people can come to meet or 'lobby' their MP.



HOUSE OF LORDS

What does the House of Lords do?

The House of Lords works with the House of Commons in these areas:

- **Legislation – improve and make new laws**
- **Scrutiny – check the work of Government by asking questions and debating decisions**
- **Discussion – provide a group of experts to discuss issues in the chamber and in committees set up to look at specific subjects**

The people who sit in the House of Lords, unlike the House of Commons, are not elected and not paid. There are currently around 750 members, known as Lords or Peers.

There are four types of member: Life Peers, Law Lords, Bishops and Hereditary Peers (who have inherited their title through their family).

The majority of Lords are Life Peers, chosen because of the work they have done outside of Parliament. This can include jobs such as sportsmen and women, actors, scientists, doctors, politicians, lawyers and writers.

Lords can belong to a political party and some are chosen by the Government to work and represent one of their departments. Some Lords prefer to be independent and are known as Crossbenchers.

The Lord Speaker

The Lord Speaker sits on the Woolsack and supervises proceedings in the chamber. He or she can offer advice but, unlike the Speaker in the House of Commons, does not decide who speaks next or select topics for debate.

A typical Lords working day

Questions

Questions to the Government lasting 30 minutes.

Statements

The main business is sometimes interrupted for a Government minister to make a statement and answer questions on it.

Making Laws

In order for laws to be made, a Bill (idea for a new law) has to be agreed by both the House of Commons and the House of Lords before it is passed to the Monarch for its final go-ahead or 'Royal Assent'.

Debates

Discussions on a wide range of subjects affecting the country are held every week. There are also short debates (up to 1.5 hours) on current issues.

Committees

There are lots of committees set up to discuss specific subjects. They are made up of peers from all parties who are selected because of their expertise in that area. There are often many different committees working on any day.



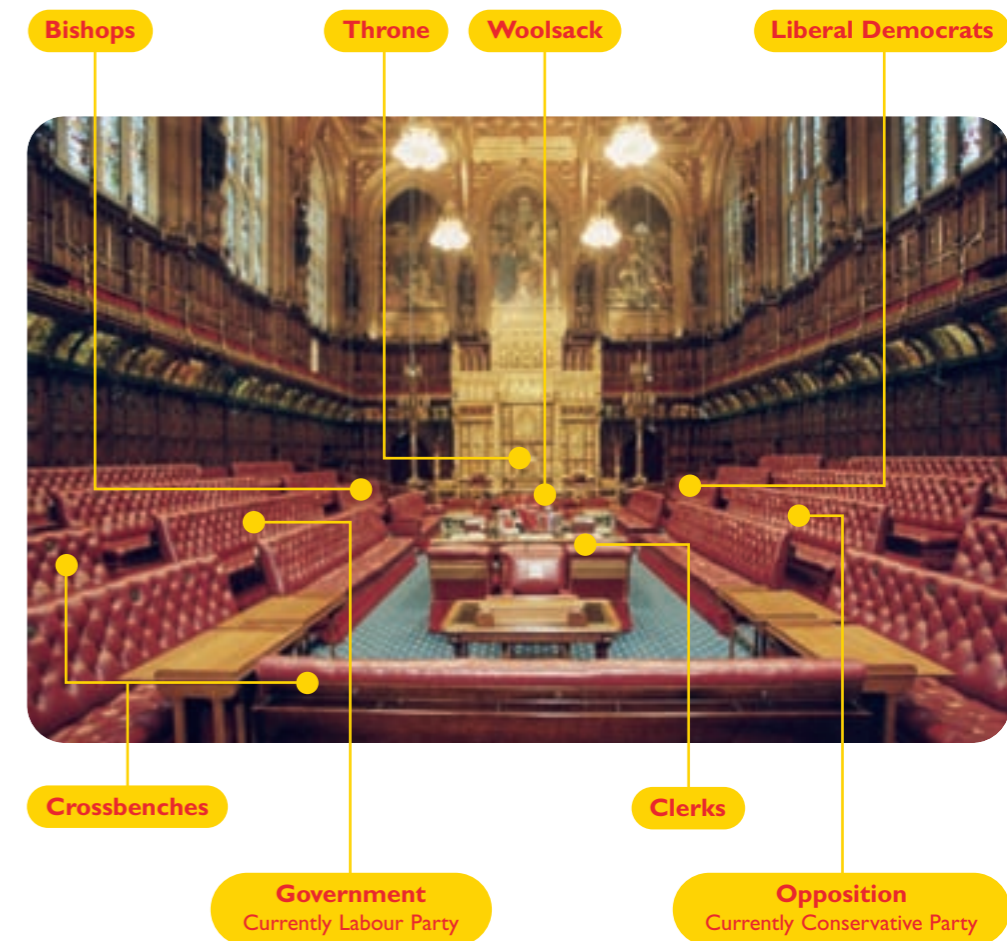
Question time with the Lord Speaker sitting on the Woolsack presiding proceedings



A Bill becomes an Act of Parliament once it has been approved by both Houses

14th century	1649	1660	1911 and 1949	1958	1985	1999	2005
The Lords begin to sit in a separate House from the Commons.	House of Lords stops meeting during Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth.	Monarchy is restored and the House of Lords starts holding sessions again.	Parliament Acts allow some Bills to become Acts without the agreement of the Lords.	The 'Life Peerages Act' creates the right for men and women to sit in the Lords 'for life'. Women sit in the House for the first time.	Proceedings in the Lords televised for first time.	The 'House of Lords Act' removes the right of all but 92 hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House.	The 'Constitutional Reform Act' sets up a Supreme Court, separating the law courts from the law making.

LORDS chamber



HOUSE OF COMMONS

What do MPs do?

- **Legislation – improve and make new laws**
- **Scrutiny – check the work of Government by asking questions and debating decisions**
- **Representation – speaking for and on behalf of members of the public**

Members of Parliament (MPs) divide their time between Westminster and the area they represent, known as their constituency. They hold meetings or 'surgeries' where members of the public can come to them to discuss any questions or problems they might have. An MP is elected to represent all the people living in their constituency, known as constituents, whether they voted for them or not.

The House of Commons meets Monday to Thursday as well as some Fridays to discuss and vote on ideas for new laws as well as attend committees, meetings and debates.

The Commons Speaker

The Speaker sits on the large raised chair at the top of the House of Commons. The Speaker is elected by MPs to act as the chairperson. He or she will choose who speaks during debates and keep order in the chamber.

How do you become an MP?

The UK is divided into 646 constituencies. Each constituency has about 70,000 people living in it. You can become an MP independently (not representing a party) but most MPs elected represent a political party. The person with the most votes in each constituency will then become the elected Member of Parliament.

What can your MP do for you?

You can write to or email your MP. You can also arrange to visit them personally by contacting their office to find out when they hold surgeries or by arranging to meet them at Westminster. Your MP can talk about things that concern you in debates in the House of Commons. They can also contact ministers of different departments on your behalf.

A typical Commons working day

Questions

An hour in which one or more Government ministers answer questions from MPs. On Wednesdays the questions are all for the Prime Minister.

Statements

Sometimes a Government minister will need to make a statement on an important issue. If so, this will happen straight after question time.

Making Laws

The main business of the day will often be a debate on a Bill at one of its stages through Parliament.

Debates

These can be on legislation (Bills) but sometimes it is an opportunity for the MPs to discuss an important issue.

Committees

As in the Lords, there are lots of committees in the Commons. MPs from all parties are asked to sit on these committees to discuss specific topics.



In the House of Commons Chamber debates on legislation, general topics of interest or other issues take place



Once a Bill has completed all of its stages it can become an Act of Parliament

1097	1215	1689	1870	1928	1948	1969	2002
Westminster Hall is built.	Magna Carta sealed by King John. This set the founding principles for Parliament and Constitution.	Passing of the Bill of Rights. This said that laws could only be made or removed by Parliament and not by the Monarch alone.	The 'Elementary Education Act 1870' set the framework for schooling of all children over the age of 5 and under 13 in England and Wales.	With the 'Representation of the People Act 1928' women were given the right to vote on the same terms as men.	The 'National Health Service Act' provides the majority of healthcare in England.	'Representation of the People Act of 1969' lowered the voting age from 21 years to 18.	Webcasts of Parliament proceedings begins.

COMMONS chamber

