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A special reading lesson

1 Big Ben is one of the most famous attractions of London. Last week, schoolchildren from Bristol climbed 334 steps to take part in a special reading lesson at the top of it. They got this special lesson because they were the best readers in their class this year.

Kyle Fisher: 'A teacher who knows all about Big Ben gave this special lesson. We had to sit at the top of the tower in front of the famous clock. It was much more fun than sitting in a classroom at school!'

Yusra Ali: 'It was a great day. I took a lot of pictures. The tower is 96 metres high so it took 30 minutes to climb to the top. Amazing!'

Sally Parton: 'It was great to go up Big Ben, but I was a bit scared we would fall through the glass. The tower tilts about one millimetre each year.'

Sarah Wilson: 'It took sixteen years to build the clock tower. The minute hands of the clock are as long as a double-decker bus.'

Billy Gardener: 'Awesome! This bell is big. The bell was made in 1885. It weighs more than thirteen tons, about the same as two big elephants.'

Sophie Evans: 'Many people think that the tower is called Big Ben. This is not true. Big Ben is actually the nickname of the bell within the clock tower. Big Ben's official name is the Great Bell.'

Ryan Brown: 'We came to London by train and then we travelled by underground. We all had the time of our lives. It was a great day.'

If you want to travel to Big Ben yourself it is easiest to take the underground. You can get out at Westminster Tube station. Go straight on, turn right at the crossroads. Then take the second street on the left. The tower is right in front of you. You can't miss it.



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