

## Landmark

# My favorite U.K. place is a towering symbol of the country

There are many famous places in the U.K. and Elizabeth Tower is one of the most popular places of these. When I went to the U.K. on a school trip, it left the best impression on me. I learned about the tower's appearance, function, and history, including the origin of its name through this school trip.

The first thing I noticed was that the tower is tall. It is 96.3 meters high. Second, it is a clock tower. It is a tower at the Palace of Westminster (Houses of Parliament) on the banks of London's River Thames, in the center of the city. There is a clock in the tower 55 meters above the ground. Gold plating was applied around the dial of the clock, and an iron frame was embedded with milky glass. I learned that the Elizabeth Tower clock is the largest chiming four-sided clock in the U.K.

Elizabeth Tower has a very big bell, which is known as Big Ben. It is two meters tall, and weighs 31.5 tons. Big Ben rings every 15 minutes and the sound can be heard up to eight kilometers away. I think that Elizabeth Tower fulfills its role as a clock tower well.

Elizabeth Tower has been an important tower for British people since it was completed in 1859. It took about 13 years to build. I think that it is the most famous clock tower in the world because it is very accurate. It was built in a Gothic style. Also, the tower survived a crisis. During World War II, even though the Houses of Parlia-



Elizabeth Tower as seen from the London Eye

ment were destroyed in air raids, Elizabeth Tower wasn't damaged. However, since it was built on the weak ground of the banks of the River Thames, in 2003, it was discovered that the tower had begun to tilt, but now it has relatively settled. I hope it stays standing because I believe that Elizabeth Tower is a spe-

cial symbol of the U.K. from a long time ago.

Elizabeth Tower was not the original name. Its first name was Clock Tower and it was renamed Elizabeth Tower on June 26, 2012, to celebrate the 60th year (Diamond Jubilee) of Queen Elizabeth II's reign.

In conclusion, Elizabeth

very well known in Japan. In the U.K., there are a lot of people from many different backgrounds. Natalia said that the reason for this was because the British government accepted a lot of immigrants. I learned about the history of immigrants in the U.K. and made several interesting discoveries about some of the issues regarding immigration.

The U.K. has accepted many immigrants from its former col-

Tower is a very interesting place to visit in the U.K. It is a tall tower with a famous clock and a very big bell. In addition, it has a long history and also celebrates Queen Elizabeth II. I hope to go to the U.K. to see Big Ben with you.

By Momoka Abe

## U.K. immigrant problems may provide important lessons for Japan

I went to the U.K. on a school trip more than a year ago. All of us stayed with host families. My friend and I stayed with a nice lady named Natalia. I had a wonderful time. During our stay, we chatted about many things,

usually during a meal. We chatted for the longest time at breakfast during our second day. We talked about foreign people who were living in both countries. I learned that there was a big problem in the U.K. that isn't

onies. Large numbers of immigrants arrived after World War II. The immigrants helped with the recovery of the country by working to repair the infrastructure. At first, they were considered to be low-paid workers, but their work helped revive British society and the economy. Their contributions were seen as beneficial at first, but they were later seen as people who were taking jobs away from the British peo-

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