**MY CAPITAL CITY – LONDON**

We can use **which** and **where** to join sentences.

**We use WHICH for things**:

This is the book. It has the information.

This is the book which has the information.

**We use where for places**:

There’s the house. John and Mary live in it.

There’s the house where John and Mary live.

Read the text and complete the text using the following words:

1. where the Queen Elizabeth II lives
2. which is the biggest
3. which are much bigger
4. where the Romans landed
5. where you can buy anything
6. where you can see
7. where people of different nationalities from all over the world live
8. which is the oldest Underground in the world

**London** is the capital of England, Great Britain (GB *consists of* England Wales and Scotland) and the United Kingdom. It is an economic, cultural and important political centre of Great Britain. It is the ninth largest city in the world.

***Inhabitants*** (obyvatelia): London has a population of about 7 million people. It is the most cosmopolitan city in the world (0)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and they speak more than 300 *languages*. It has 50 *nationalities* with populations of more than 10,000. These immigrant communities brought with them their own food, culture, traditions and customs (zvyklosti, obyčaje). People who live in London call themselves Londoners.

***Location and history*:** It lies on the *banks* (na brehoch) of **the River Thames**, (1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nearly 2,000 years ago. It was founded as a Roman settlement (rímske osídlenie). The great fire in 1666 destroyed almost all the city. London is situated in south-east England. *In spite of the fact* (napriek faktu) that London is not situated on the *coast* (pobrežie) it is the biggest port (prístav) because the river is deep enough (dosť) and ships can go up the river. From about 1800 until World War II, London was the biggest city in the world, but now there are many cities (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

It has 33 *districts* (štvrť mesta). The City, the West End and the East End are the most important ones. The City is the historical centre of London and the main financial centre of London. It is the oldest part of London around St. Paul’s Cathedral. The City was founded (bolo založené) by *Romans* (Rimanmi) in 43 AD. There are many banks and offices there. The West End is the centre for shopping. The best shops are in Oxford Street, Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus and Bond Street. We can find many *theatres* and cinemas in this *quarter* (štvrť). The houses are very expensive here and that’s why only rich people can afford (dovoliť si) to live there. In the West End there are many *factories*. The London port and docks (doky) are situated in this part. The houses and flats are cheaper and many workers live there. There we can meet people from all over the world.

London is famous for many things. Tourists come from all over the world to visit its historic *buildings (budovy)*, such as **Buckingham Palace**, (3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Buckingham Palace is the official home of the British *royal family* and **Changing the guards** takes place (koná sa) in front of it every day at 11.30. **The Houses of Parliament** *were built* (boli postavené) in gothic style but are only about one hundred years old. There is also a famous *clock tower* (4)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and hear the famous clock, **Big Ben** which *strikes* (odbíja) the hours with its characteristic bell-ringing. The bell *weighs* (váži) 13,5 tons and was named after Sir Benjamin Hall in 1858. Sir Benjamin Hall was one of the ministers in the middle of the 19th century. He *was nicknamed* (bol prezývaný) “Big Ben” because he was very tall.

**Downing Street 10** is the official home of British Prime Ministers.

**Westminster Abbey** (Westminsterské opátstvo) *was founded* (bolo založené) in the 11th *century*. It was built in gothic style. England’s greatest poets, artists, statesmen (štátnici) and other famous people *were buried* (boli pochovaní) in the **Poets’ Corner** (e.g. Chaucer, Newton, Handel). Abbey is the place where a lot of *state ceremonies*, *coronations* (korunovácie) and *royal weddings* take place and where Prince William married Kate Middleton on 29th April 2011.

**Westminster Cathedral** is one of the biggest Roman Catholic churches in England. It is built of red bricks (z červených tehál).

**St. Paul’s cathedral** is one of the largest cathedrals in the world. It stands in the City. It was built in the 17th century and it is the work of the famous architect Sir Christopher Wren. The Cathedral is known for its **Whispering Gallery**. (When you stand on this Gallery you can clearly hear what is whispered on the opposite side 107 feet far from you). During the World War II it was badly damaged by bombs. In 1981 Prince of Wales (Prince Charles) and Lady Diana were married there.

**Tower Bridge** is one of the most famous symbols of London. It was built in the 19th century. It can open in the middle and let (nechať) large ships go through (prejsť). **The Tower of London** is close to the Tower Bridge. In the past (v minulosti) it was a royal palace, a prison and a fortress (pevnosť). It is now a museum of arms and weapons and the place where crown jewels are kept.

**Trafalgar Square** (Trafalgarské námestie) was named after Admiral Nelson’s victory over Napoleon at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Nelson’s statue (socha) is situated on a high column (stĺp). **Nelson’s column** stands in the centre of the square. The square with its fountains is a very popular place for various meetings and demonstrations. At Christmas time a big Christmas tree stands there and on New Year’s Eve people meet there at midnight, sing and dance.

There are a lot of museums and galleries. **The British Museum** is the largest museum in the world. It houses the biggest collection of all kinds of animals, minerals and rocks. There is a collection of Fine and applied arts (zbierka výtvarného a úžitkového umenia) of all countries, periods and styles, e.g. *exhibits* (exponáty) from *Ancient* (staroveké) *Greece*, Rome, Egyptian *mummies*, *manuscripts* (rukopisy) from *Middle Ages* (stredovek). The National Gallery of British Art, better known as **the Tate Gallery** houses a collection of British and *foreign* (zahraničný) *paintings* (maľby) from the 16th century *to the present day* (do dnešného dňa).

Tourists also come to London to visit its theatres, its museums and its shops and *department stores (obchodné domy)*, such as **Harrods**, (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. And, of course, they want to ride on the big Wheel (kolo) called **London Eye** next to the river!

***Transport and pollution***: Like many big cities, London has problems with *traffic* (doprava, premávka) and *pollution* (znečistenie). Over 1,000,000 people a day use the London Underground, (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but there are still too many cars on the streets. The air isn’t clean, but it is cleaner than it was 100 years ago. London is famous for its **red double-deckers** (bus that has 2 storeys or “decks”). Some specialise in short *sightseeing tours* for tourists. There are also three *airports* in London. The most important are **Heathrow** and **Gatwick**.

For me, the best thing about London is the **parks** (e.g. St. James’ Park, Green Park, Regent’s Park, and Hyde Park). There are five in the city centre. The largest and the most famous is **Hyde Park** with a little lake called Serpentine and the **Speaker’s Corner** where anyone (ktokoľvek) can come and choose a theme and he can start speaking about it. It is a large green *area* (plocha). You can come and relax and have a picnic with your friends or family there. Lots of people go for long walks and jogging there on Sundays.

But my children’s favourite place is **Hamley’s**, (7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ toy shop in the world.