

# Minster Navigators

## Journey through time



Self-guided  
tour of  
York Minster



### 4 Chapter House

The Chapter House was built around the year 1280.

Sit on one of the stone seats and have a look around. How many sides does the room have?

Count the keys you can see on the floor and ceiling.



Can you see any funny carved faces like these? Draw your favourite face in the white box.



### 5 Quire Screen

The Quire screen was built around 1450. The carved kings were on the throne during the time the **Minster** was built. They start with William the Conqueror on the left. There are numbers after the names of the Kings. What might they represent?

Which King is an odd one out? There are lots of possible answers!



### 6 The Quire

In 1829, a man called Jonathan Martin set this area on fire. He had mental health problems and was critical of the **Minster** and the priests. It took 4 years to rebuild the Quire after the fire.

Here are 3 consequences of the fire. Which do you think had the greatest impact?

1. The Minster Police were set up to keep watch day and night.
2. Jonathan Martin was locked up for the rest of his life.
3. The organ, benches, ceiling and many tombs were destroyed.



Ask your friends if they agree with you.

### 7 Great East Window

Look up at this beautiful window. It shows stories from the **Bible** about the beginning and end of the world.

Can you spot this picture of fish and birds near the top of the window?



The window was created in 1405 by John Thornton. He was paid £56 for his work which was a huge amount of money in those days!

### 8 South Transept

In 1984 this roof was struck by lightning and caught fire. When it was re-built, a programme called Blue Peter asked children to design some new roof **bosses**.

There are six winning designs on the ceiling. Can you spot a spaceman or whale?



Which is your favourite roof boss?

Check your timeline is complete!

### Word Bank

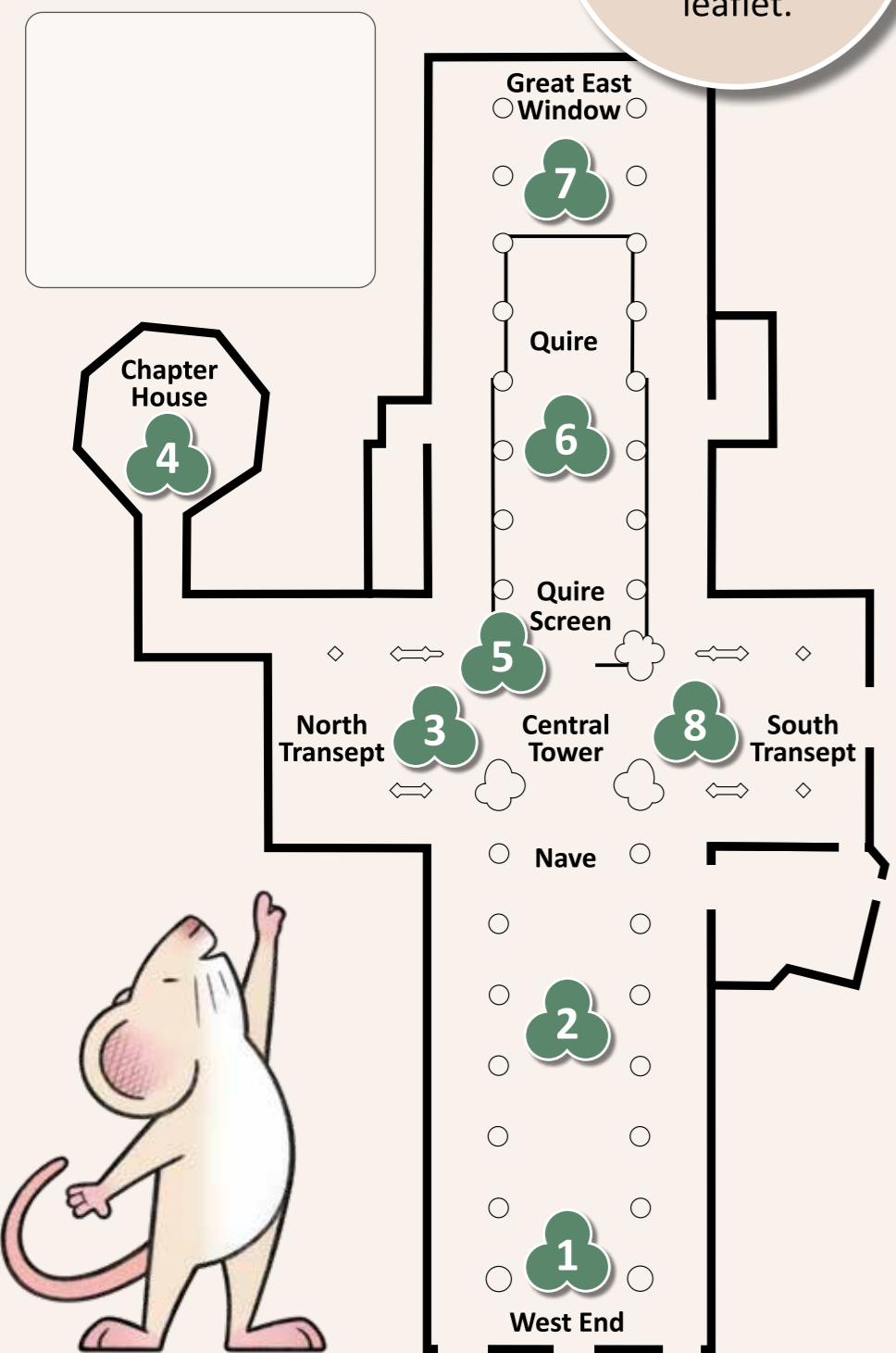
- Bible** The Holy Book of Christians.
- Bosses** Carvings on the ceiling that cover the join in the beams.
- Minster** A church that was usually built in Anglo-Saxon times and spread the teachings of Christianity.
- Nave** The large, open part of a church or cathedral where services often take place. Nave is the Latin word for ship.
- Relics** Small items important to Christians like the bones of a saint.

# Welcome to York Minster!

This is a beautiful building that is hundreds of years old. It is an awesome place for people to pray and learn about God.

Look around you.  
What words come to mind?  
Write your best word in the box.

You can find the meaning of words in **bold** at the back of the leaflet.



## 1 The West End

Romans arrived in York in AD 71 and built their fortress here. The first York **Minster** was built 500 years later by the Anglo-Saxon King Edwin of Northumbria. The **Minster** was re-built from 1080 to 1100 in the Norman style. From 1225 it was made even bigger and re-built in a style called 'Gothic'. It was finally finished in 1472.

Look at the stone arches above you. What shape are they?

These pointed arches are called 'Gothic'. Can you draw one in this white box?

The statue behind you is St Peter. He carries the key to Heaven. Keep a look out for more keys around the Minster.

## 2 The Nave

Look up at the gold shapes on the ceiling called **bosses**. They were destroyed in 1840 by a fire caused by a candle in the bell tower. After the fire, the **bosses** were re-created from drawings by an artist called John Browne.

Can you see the red and gold dragon? It is very old and it can move up and down. What do you think it was for? (Answer below).

Answer: We think it had a long rope that lifted the lid of a box containing **relics**.

## 3 The Five Sisters Window

This window is over 700 years old! Can you spot the five different geometric patterns?

There are different stories about this window. Some people think ...

1 It is named after 5 sisters known for their beautiful embroidery. **Evidence:** The sisters are mentioned in 2 books written over 200 years ago. One is a novel and the other is a history book.

2 The window was influenced by Islamic art. **Evidence:** In Islam, detailed patterns are used to decorate holy books and buildings.

Which theory did you find most convincing? Write the number in the box.

## Timeline

Make sure you complete your timeline!

Who arrived in York?	Which King built the first York Minster?	How many years did it take to build the Norman Minster?	What style was the Minster from 1225 onwards?	How many sisters at stop 3?	Draw a shape with the same number of sides as the Chapter House.	How many Kings are on the Quire Screen? (You will have to count them!)	Why is 1472 important for the Minster?	Which area of the Minster was set on fire in 1829?	Draw a picture of what caused this fire.	What was designed by children following this fire?
AD 71	627	1080	1225	1250	1280	1450	1472	1829	1840	1984