

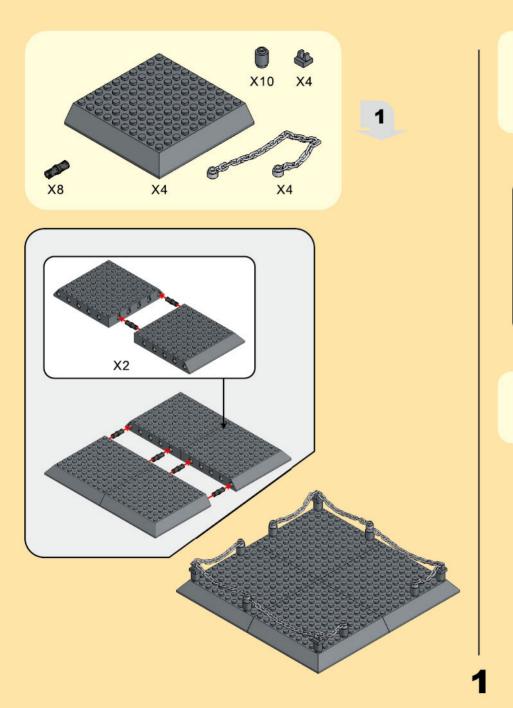
THE BIG BEN

INTRODUCTION

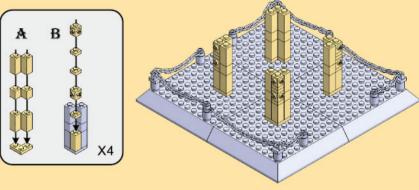
Big Ben is the nickname for the great bell of the clock at the north end of the Palace of Westminster in London. It is the largest four-faced chiming clock and the third-tallest free-standing clock tower in the world. The clock tower completed on April 10, 1858. The Big Ben Clock is used to ring in the London New Year and is a rallying point for the New Year's celebration of the entire country of England. It has become a symbol of london and the United Kingdom.

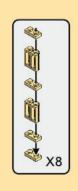
The bell weighs almost 14 tons. The four clock faces of the Big Ben in London are each 23 ft [7 m] in diameter, the hour hand is 9 ft [2.7m] long and the minute hand is 14 ft [4:25 m] long, the four clock dials are 180 ft [55m] above ground. The clock's movement is famous for its remarkable reliability. The engineering of the clock is such that the actual mechanisms of the clock itself are well protected from climate changes and harsh weather. Though the clock has experienced slowing at various times through its history, the clock continued to run accurately during The Blitz of World War II.





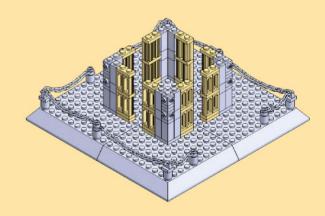


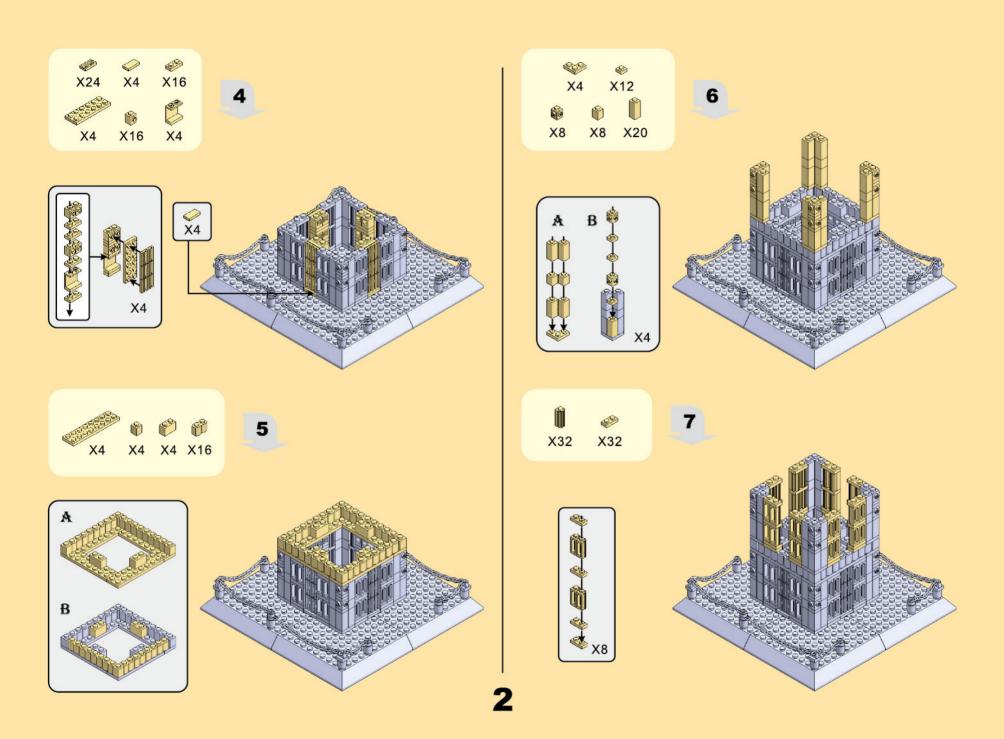


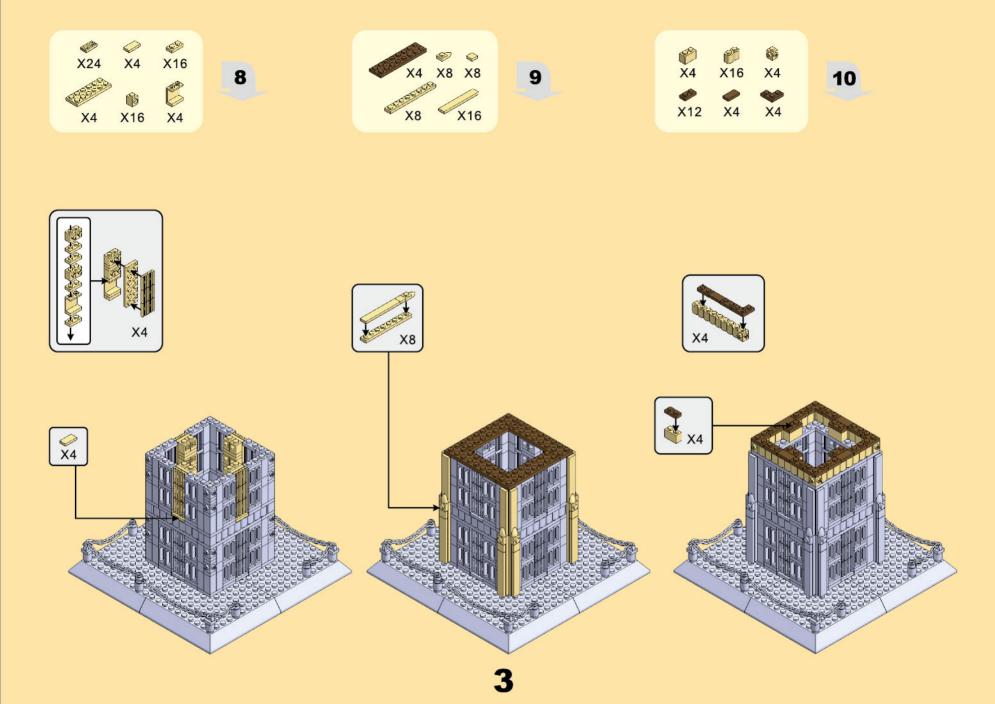


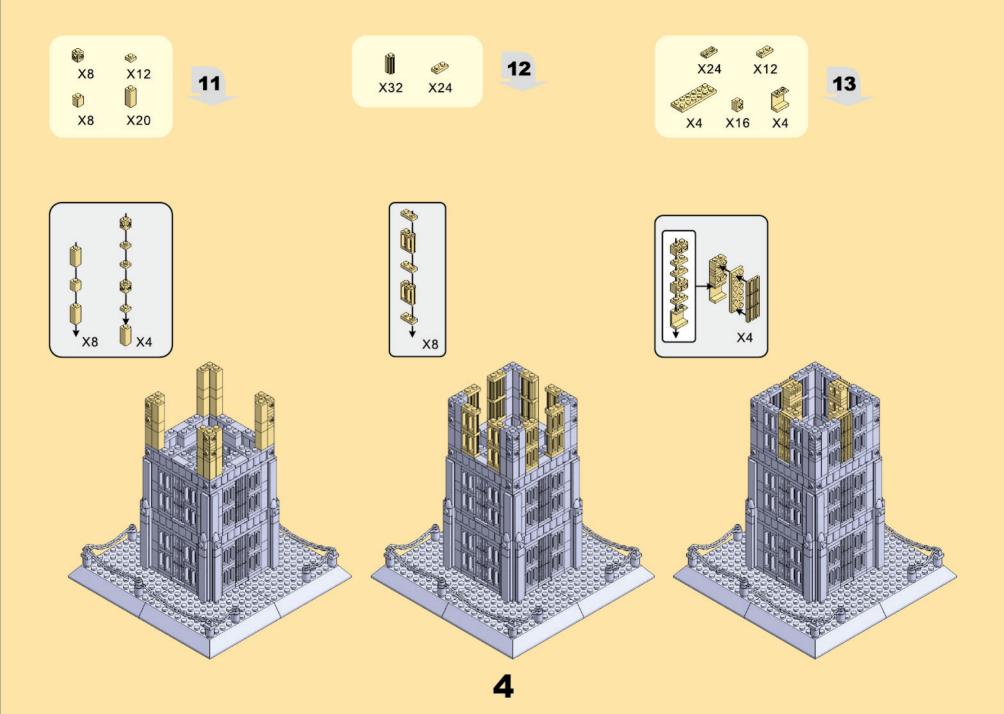
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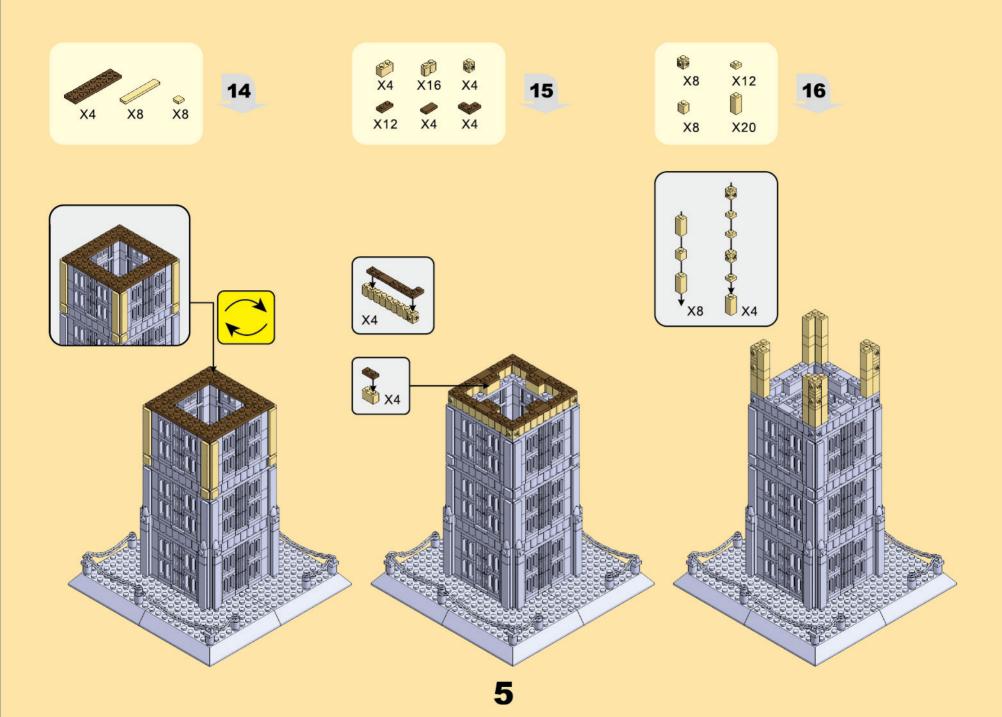
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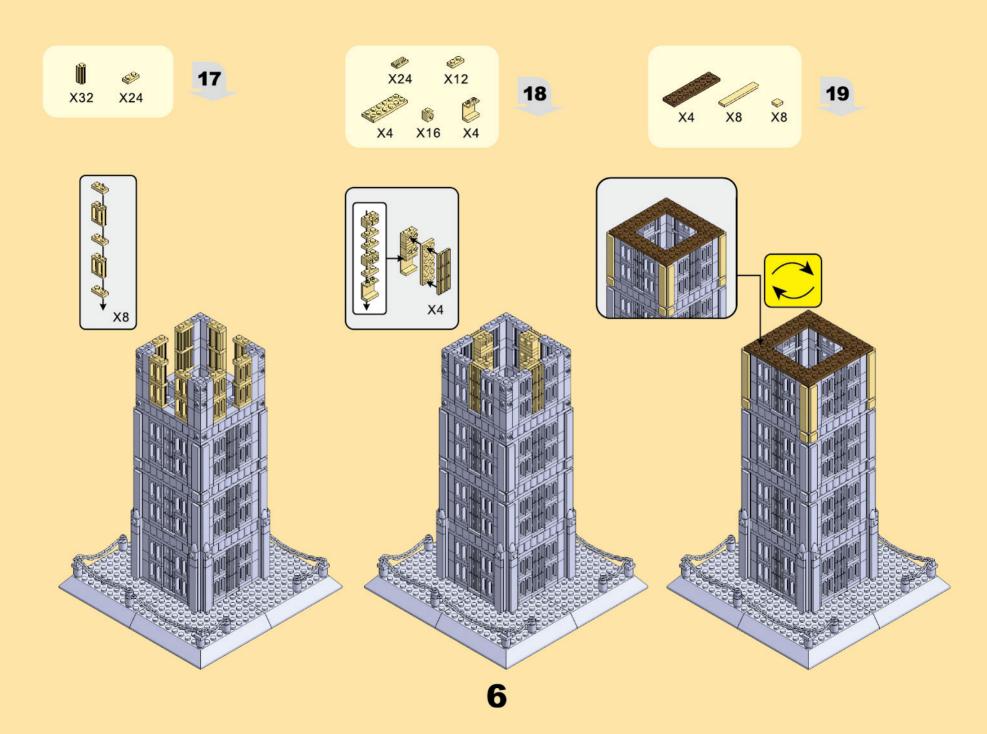


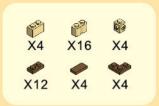




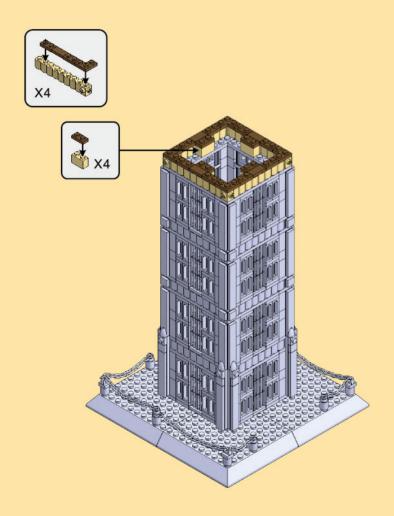


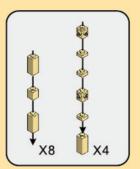


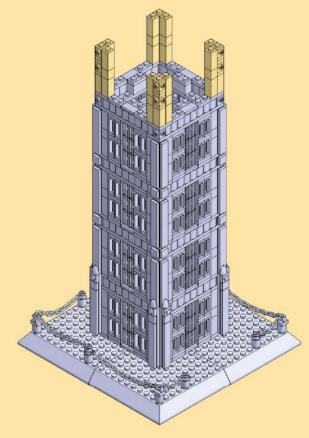






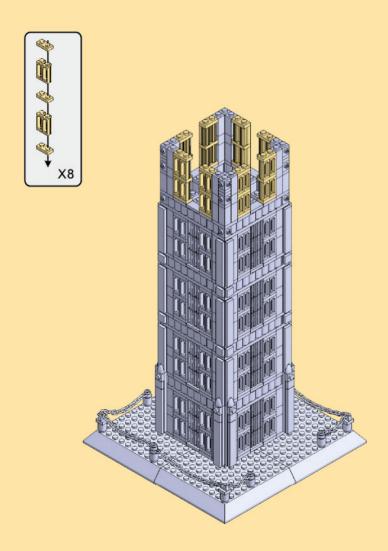


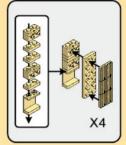


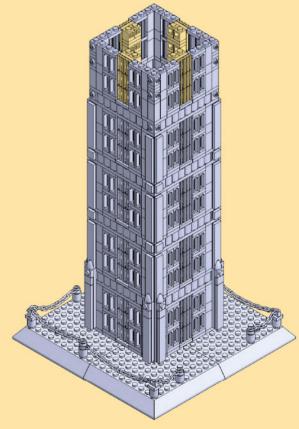


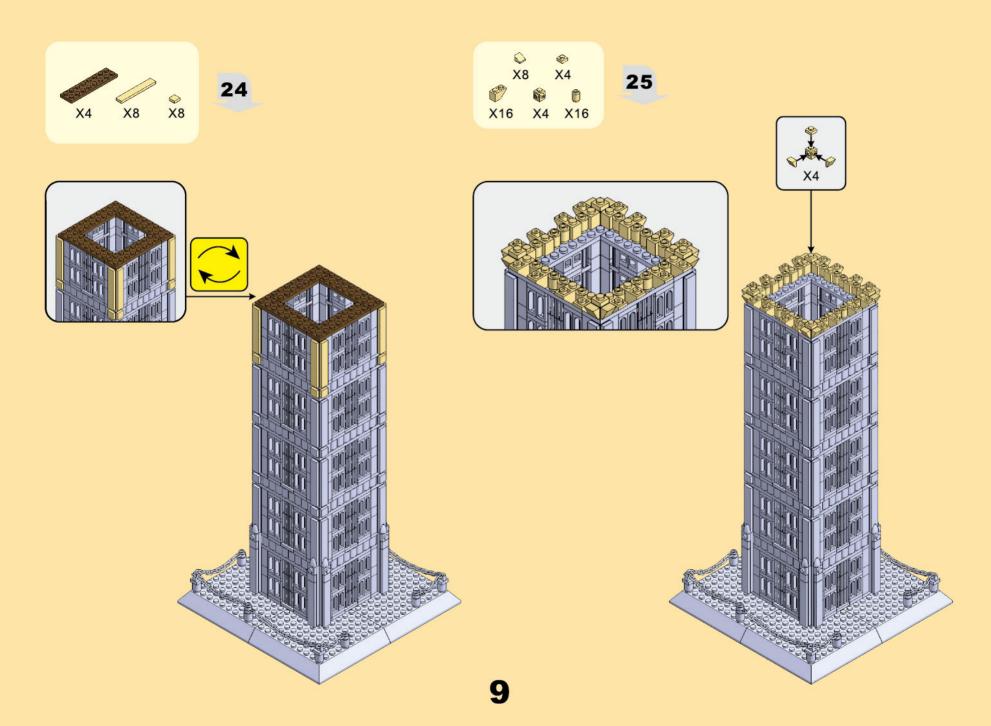






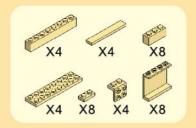


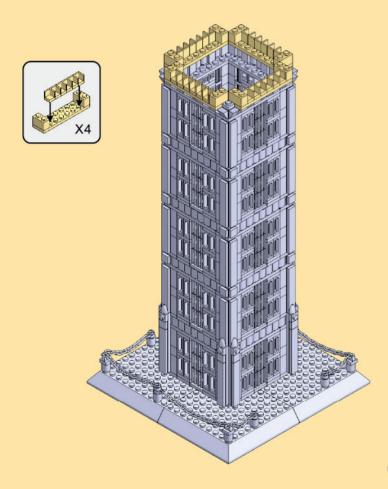


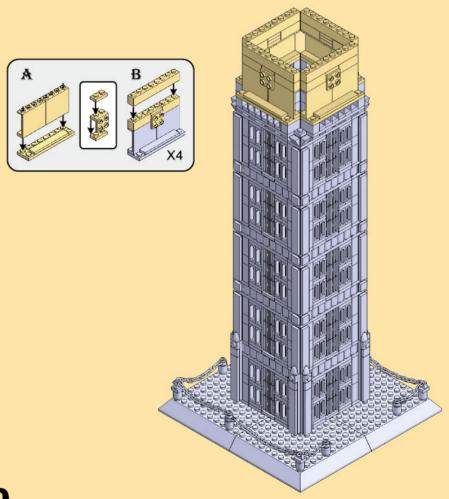




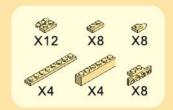


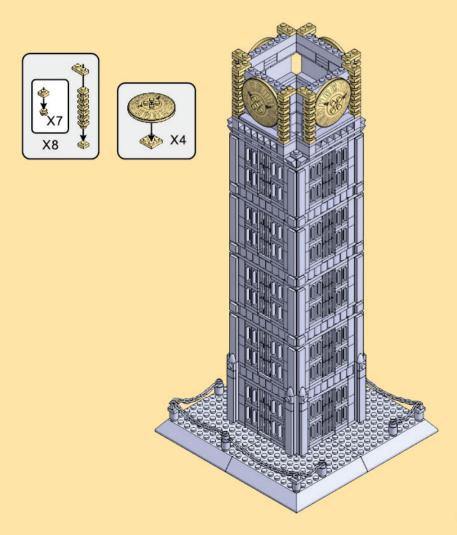


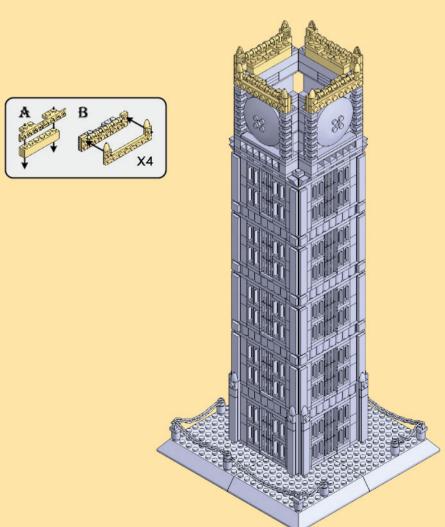


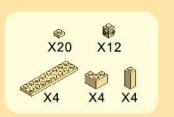


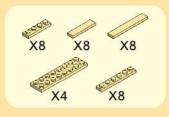


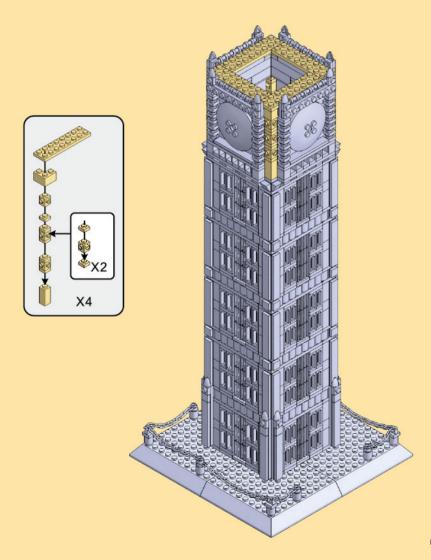


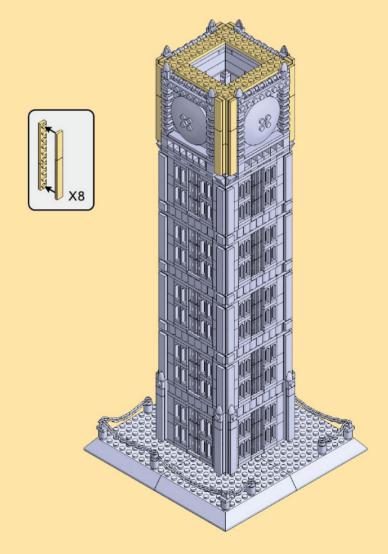














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