Start

~1600s
Britan is a seafaring nation, but there's no good way of finding longitude at sea!

1660
Royal Society established

1667
King Louis XIV commissions Paris Observatory

Boat crash!
Miss a turn!

1674
Royal Commission set up

March 1675
John Flamsteed appointed as "King's Astronomical Observator"

Lost at sea!
Miss a turn!

June 1675
Royal warrant allows the founding of the Royal Greenwich Observatory

Aug 1675
John Flamsteed lays the observatory's foundation stone

1676
John Flamsteed moves into the Observatory and gets to work

Boat crash!
Miss a turn!

1714
Board of longitude established

1759
John Harrison completes H4, the prize-winning chronometer

1767
First Nautical Almanac published. Chronometers are being used by sailors

Redo all your calcula-tions!
Miss a turn!

1833
Time Ball starts being used

1851
Airy's transit circle first used

1852
Shepherd Gate clock installed, & the Observatory is sending time signals around the country via telegraph wires

1884
Meridian line defined by Airy's transit circle named Prime Meridian of the world

1890s
South Building, Azimuth Pavilion and Great Equatorial Telescope are built

The observatory is a busy place!
Roll again!

It's cloudy!
Miss a turn!

1940s
Royal Observatory relocates to Herstmonceux

1990
Royal Observatory relocates to Cambridge

Light pollution !
Miss a turn!

1998
Royal Observatory Greenwich opens as a museum

Now!