

## WHAT ARE PENNY LOAVES?

Old London Bridge was destroyed in a battle in 1136, but it was rebuilt.

About 600 years later, it was “falling down” and needed repairs.

There was a contest among architects to see who could design the best bridge.

People had fun inventing silly ideas for rebuilding the bridge, and the song “London Bridge” seems to describe various ways that the bridge could be built.

In 1266, the nation of England passed a law that determined the size of a common loaf of bread. This size was called a **penny loaf**.

When the song “London Bridge” says, “Build it up with **penny loaves**,” it was talking about a silly idea of using loaves of bread (that will tumble down!) for rebuilding the Bridge.