

Ellie's Great Fire of London Timeline Challenge

Learning objective: To sequence the key events of the Great Fire of London and understand how the fire spread and was eventually stopped.

Ellie the elephant has been reading historical diaries from 1666. She has scrambled the timeline of the Great Fire of London. Read the events listed in the questions below and number them from 1 to 6 to show the correct chronological order of the disaster.

Word bank: Pudding Lane · St Paul's Cathedral · 1666 · King Charles II · baker · firebreaks

- 1. The fire starts in a small bakery on Pudding Lane in the middle of the night. (Number this event:) (1 mark)**

- 2. The fire spreads quickly because the houses are made of wood and pitch, and it is a very dry summer. (Number this event:) (1 mark)**

- 3. People use buckets of water and pull down houses to create firebreaks to stop the flames. (Number this event:) (1 mark)**

- 4. The massive St Paul's Cathedral is sadly destroyed by the intense heat of the fire. (Number this event:) (1 mark)**

- 5. The wind finally dies down and the fire is brought under control after four days of burning. (Number this event:) (1 mark)**

- 6. King Charles II orders the rebuilding of London with wider streets and brick houses to prevent future fires. (Number this event:) (1 mark)**

Draw: Draw a picture of a house in 1666 London, showing the wooden beams and the narrow street. Add a label to show where the fire might have spread from one house to the next.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1666. Write three sentences explaining why it was so difficult to put the fire out compared to how we fight fires today.