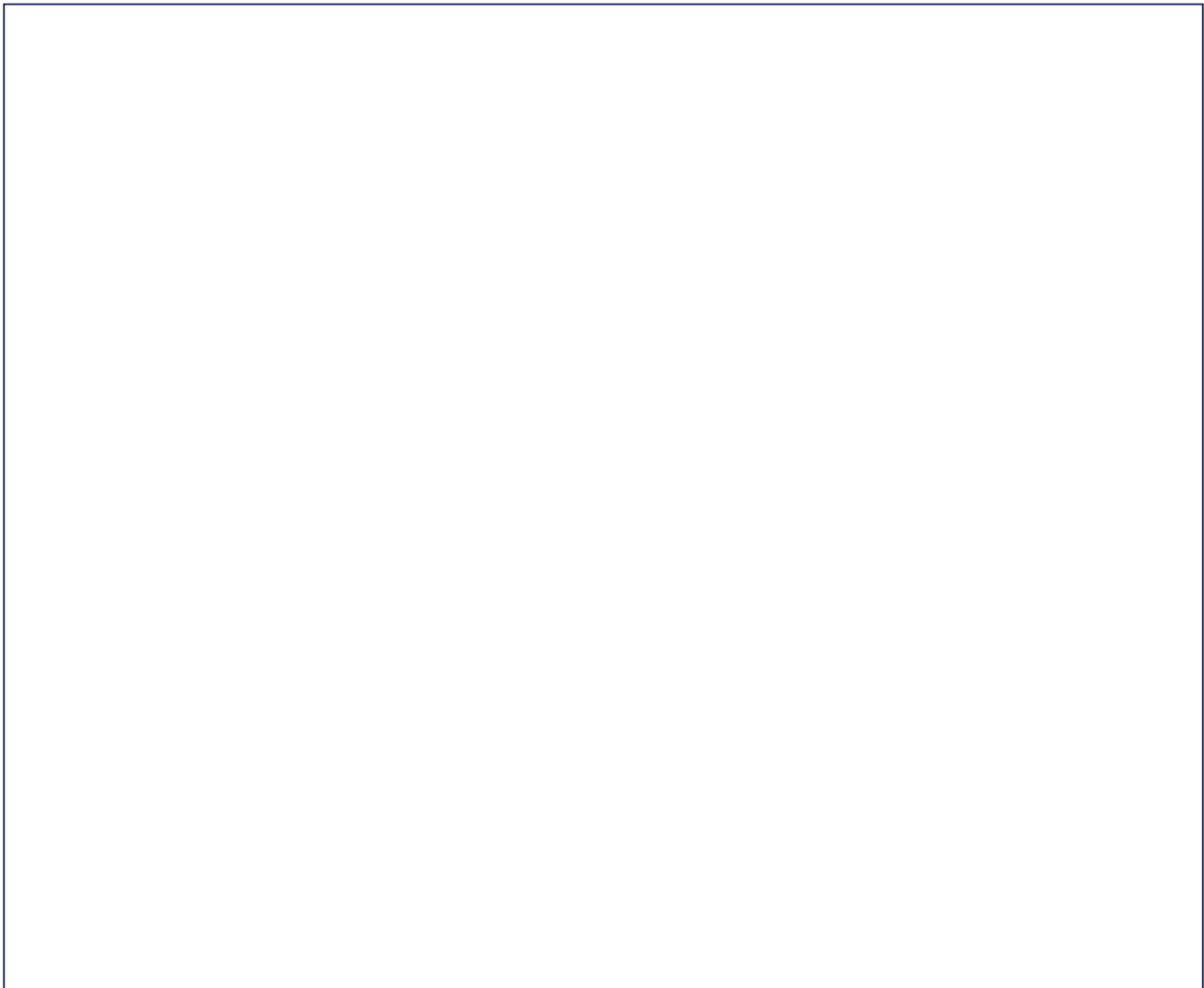


The Great Fire of London: A Historical Sketch

Learning objective: To identify and illustrate key features of 17th-century London and the conditions that caused the Great Fire of 1666.

Use your knowledge of the Great Fire of 1666 to complete the drawing below. Think about how the houses were built and why the fire spread so quickly through the city.

Draw: Draw a street scene in London, 1666. Include 'jettied' houses (where the top floors hang over the street) that are very close together. Add a view of the River Thames in the background. In the foreground, draw a group of people forming a 'bucket chain' to move water. Use warm colours like orange, yellow, and red to show the fire starting in a bakery on the corner.



Label words: Timber-framed houses · Thames · Pitch · Narrow street · St Paul's Cathedral · Bucket chain

Steps:

1. Why did the 'pitch' on the wooden houses make the fire spread faster? Explain your answer.
2. Label the river that flows through the city in your drawing.
3. List two materials that 17th-century houses were made of, which made them dangerous during a fire.
4. Why were the narrow streets a problem for the people trying to escape the flames?
5. If you were living in London in 1666, what is one item you would try to save first?