

A Day in 1666: Diary Entry Template

Learning objective: To understand the events and impact of the Great Fire of London from the perspective of someone living in the 17th century.

Imagine you are living in London in September 1666. Use this diary template to describe the sights, sounds, and feelings during the Great Fire. Use the word bank to help you describe the scene and think about how people reacted to the emergency.

Word bank: Pudding Lane · bakery · timber · flames · bucket · River Thames · chaos · smoke · evacuate

1. Setting the Scene: Describe where you are and what you first noticed about the fire. Use your senses to describe the smell or the look of the smoke. (3 marks)

2. The Action: What did you see people doing to try and stop the fire? Remember, they did not have modern fire engines! (2 marks)

3. The Escape: Ellie the elephant wants to know how you felt as you had to leave your home. Where did you go to stay safe? (3 marks)

4. The Aftermath: How has London changed now that the fire has stopped? Think about the buildings and the streets. (2 marks)

5. Reflective Thought: If you could send a message to someone living in London today, what is the most important lesson you would tell them about the Great Fire? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Max the monkey has calculated that the fire destroyed over 13,000 houses! Research how the city was rebuilt after the fire and write three sentences about the new rules for building houses to make them safer.