

The Great Fire of London: A History Quiz with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To recall key facts about the causes, events, and consequences of the Great Fire of London in 1666.

Join Ellie the Elephant on a journey back to 1666! Read the questions carefully and use your historical knowledge to uncover the facts about this monumental event.

Answer Key: 1. A (1666); 2. B (Pudding Lane); 3. C (Thomas Farriner); 4. True; 5. False (It was made of wood/timber and thatch); 6. Samuel Pepys; 7. St Paul's Cathedral; 8. True; 9. B (To stop the fire from spreading); 10. A (A large stone column/monument).

Word bank: Pudding Lane · 1666 · Thomas Farriner · St Paul's Cathedral · timber · Samuel Pepys · monument · thatch · draughts · baker

1. In which year did the Great Fire of London begin? A) 1066 B) 1666* C) 1866 D) 1566 (1 mark)

2. Where did the fire start? A) London Bridge B) Pudding Lane* C) The Tower of London D) Westminster (1 mark)

3. Who was the King's baker whose oven started the fire? A) Samuel Pepys B) Christopher Wren C) Thomas Farriner* D) Robert Hooke (1 mark)

4. True or False: The fire lasted for four days. (1 mark)

5. True or False: Houses in 17th-century London were mostly built of stone and brick. (1 mark)

6. Which famous diarist recorded his eyewitness account of the fire? (1-word answer) (1 mark)

7. Which major landmark was destroyed and later rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren? (1-word answer) (1 mark)

8. True or False: Strong winds helped the fire spread quickly across the city. (1 mark)

9. Why were houses pulled down during the fire? A) To find lost gold B) To create firebreaks* C) To build new roads D) To make room for gardens (1 mark)

10. How is the fire remembered in London today? A) A tall stone monument* B) A statue of the King C) A plaque on a bridge D) A yearly festival (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene from 1666 showing the narrow streets of London. Include wooden houses with overhanging upper storeys and show the contrast between the dark city and the bright orange glow of the fire.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why the narrow, wooden streets of London made the fire so difficult to extinguish. 2. Compare and contrast how people fought fires in 1666 versus how fire services operate today. 3. Justify why Sir Christopher Wren's rebuilding of London was important for the city's future health and safety. 4. What might have happened to London if the wind had changed direction sooner? 5. If you were a journalist in 1666, write a short headline for the city newspaper. 6. Critically evaluate: Was the Great Fire a disaster or an opportunity for London to improve? Explain your reasoning.