

Ellie's Historical Reporter: The Great Fire of London

Learning objective: To analyse the causes, events, and consequences of the Great Fire of London in 1666, using historical evidence to construct a detailed report.

Imagine you are a historical investigator helping Ellie the elephant piece together the events of 1666. Use your research skills to complete this report. Think carefully about how the conditions of the city contributed to the disaster and the long-term impact on London's architecture and safety.

Word bank: Pudding Lane · flammable · timber-framed · catastrophe · conflagration · monument · prevention · architecture · thatch · eyewitness

1. Identify the origins of the fire: Describe where the fire began and explain why the weather conditions and building materials made the city particularly vulnerable to flames. (3 marks)

2. The Spread of Destruction: Justify why the fire spread so rapidly across London. Consider the proximity of the houses and the methods used to try and stop it. (3 marks)

3. Eyewitness Perspective: Imagine you were a resident in 1666. Describe the atmosphere of the city as you fled. What might you have seen, heard, or felt? (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare the houses of London in 1666 with the buildings we see in our cities today. How have safety standards changed? (4 marks)

5. Consequences and Change: Explain why the Great Fire led to significant changes in urban planning and building regulations in the years that followed. (3 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: What might have happened if the fire had occurred during the winter instead of the dry, hot summer? Justify your prediction. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Fire Safety Poster' for 17th-century Londoners. Using your historical knowledge, list three new rules for building houses that would prevent another disaster. Explain why each rule is essential for the safety of the citizens.