

The Great Fire of London: Social Studies / History Assessment

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the causes, events, and aftermath of the Great Fire of London (1666).

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide clear and accurate answers. Ensure you check your spelling and punctuation.

In September 1666, London was a city made of tightly packed, wooden houses. A small spark in a bakery on Pudding Lane ignited a fire that would change the city forever. For four days, the flames spread rapidly across the capital. Many citizens fled to the River Thames to escape the heat, while others watched as iconic buildings were consumed. With the help of King Charles II and the brave efforts of the people, the fire was eventually brought under control. Afterwards, the city was rebuilt using brick and stone to ensure such a disaster would not happen again.

Word bank: Pudding Lane · Samuel Pepys · Thames · St Paul's Cathedral · timber-framed · catastrophe · monument · bakery

1. Identify the exact location where the Great Fire of London began and the date it started. (2 marks)

2. Explain two reasons why the fire spread so quickly across the city of London. (2 marks)

3. Who was Samuel Pepys, and why is his diary considered a valuable historical source for this event? (3 marks)

4. Describe the measures taken to stop the fire from spreading further, including the actions of the King's men. (3 marks)

5. How did the city of London change in its construction and design following the fire? Mention at least two specific improvements. (4 marks)

6. Imagine you are a citizen of London in 1666. Write a short journal entry (approx. 100 words) describing the scene as you flee your home, what you can see, and how you feel about the destruction of your city. (5 marks)

7. Ellie the elephant has been studying history. She says, 'The Great Fire was purely a disaster with no positive outcomes.' To what extent do you agree or disagree with her? Give reasons for your answer. (6 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram showing how the fire spread from house to house in 1666, highlighting the narrow streets and wooden materials used at the time.



Extension challenge: Total: /25