

The Great Fire of London: A Historical Challenge

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

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to select the correct answer or write your response in the space provided. Good luck, historians!

Answer Key: 1. B (1666), 2. True, 3. Pudding Lane, 4. C (Timber and pitch), 5. False, 6. Samuel Pepys, 7. A (To stop the fire spreading), 8. True, 9. Sir Christopher Wren, 10. False.

Word bank: Pudding Lane · 1666 · Samuel Pepys · St Paul's Cathedral · Timber · Thames · Bakery · Monarchy · Stone · Firebreak

1. In what year did the Great Fire of London begin? A) 1566 B) 1666* C) 1766 D) 1606 (1 mark)

2. True or False: The fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane. (1 mark)

3. What was the name of the street where the fire first started? (1 mark)

4. Why did the fire spread so quickly? A) High winds B) Narrow streets C) Timber houses covered in pitch* D) All of the above (1 mark)

5. True or False: The fire lasted for only one day. (1 mark)

6. Which famous historical figure kept a diary that provides us with a detailed eye-witness account of the fire? (1 mark)

7. What was a 'firebreak'? A) Pulling down houses to create a gap* B) Using water from the river C) Moving to the countryside D) Building a stone wall (1 mark)

8. True or False: St Paul's Cathedral was destroyed during the Great Fire. (1 mark)

9. Who was the famous architect responsible for rebuilding many of London's churches, including the new St Paul's Cathedral? (1 mark)

10. True or False: After the fire, people were encouraged to build their new homes out of wood instead of brick. (1 mark)

Draw: Ellie the elephant is visiting the site of the fire. Draw a picture of the London skyline in 1666, showing the wooden houses and the smoke rising, as seen through the eyes of a historian.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are living in London in 1666. Write a short diary entry (about 50 words) from the perspective of a resident watching the fire from the River Thames. What do you see, hear, and feel?