The Great Fire of London

Learning objective: To understand the events of the Great Fire of London in 1666.

Read the story about Ellie the elephant's time-travel adventure carefully, then answer the questions below.

Ellie the elephant loves history. One sunny day, she used her memory to travel back to the year 1666. She arrived in the busy city of London. Everything was different back then! The houses were made of wood, called timber, and they were built very close together. Ellie stood on a street called Pudding Lane. Suddenly, she saw a bright glow coming from a local bakery. A fire had started! Because the houses were made of wood and the wind was blowing strongly, the fire spread very quickly from house to house. Ellie watched as the people of London tried to move away from the smoke. It was a very scary time, but the people were brave. After the fire, they decided to rebuild their city using brick and stone instead of wood. This helped to make sure that a big fire like that would not happen again. Ellie learned that history helps us understand how to make our world a safer and better place today.

Word bank: Pudding Lane · bakery · 1666 · London · flames · timber · history

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

2. What were the houses in London made of in 1666? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think the fire spread so quickly between the houses? (2 marks)

4. How did the people change the city after the fire, and why? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it was a good idea to build the new houses out of brick and stone? Why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a house made of wood next to a house made of brick. Label which one you think is safer.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1666. Write two sentences about what you see happening in the city.