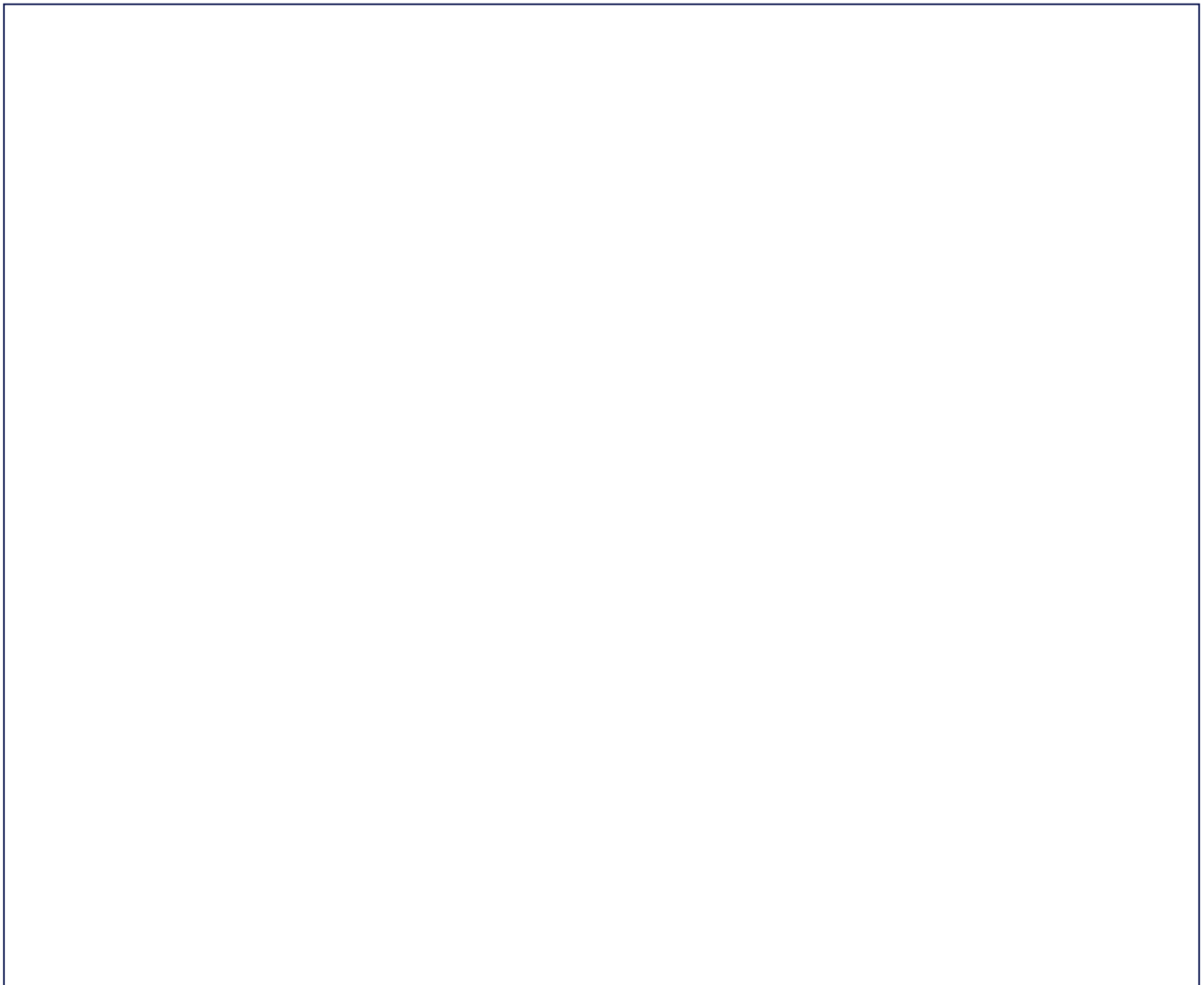


The Great Fire of London: A Historical Sketch

Learning objective: To visually represent the causes and impacts of the Great Fire of London (1666) and evaluate the historical significance of urban architecture in the spread of the blaze.

Use the drawing prompt below to create a detailed historical scene. Once your drawing is complete, use the word bank to label your work accurately. Ensure your labels show how the fire travelled between houses.

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a 17th-century London street. Include tall, timber-framed houses that lean towards each other at the top, almost touching. Show the fire starting in a bakery on the ground floor. Include small, terrified figures using a bucket chain to pass water from the river. Use a cross-hatching style to represent the heat and smoke filling the narrow alleyway.



Label words: Pudding Lane · Timber-framed houses · Thatch · River Thames · Fire hooks · Bucket chain · Pitch and tar

Steps:

1. Label your drawing to show where the 'fire breaks' might have been created to stop the flames. Explain why creating these gaps was a difficult decision for the Lord Mayor.
2. Identify two materials mentioned in the word bank that made the buildings in London particularly vulnerable to fire. Justify why these were dangerous.

3. Compare the fire-fighting equipment of 1666 (such as leather buckets) with modern fire-fighting methods. Why were the 17th-century methods often ineffective?
4. Explain why the River Thames served as both a refuge for the citizens and a key location for the movement of goods and people during the emergency.
5. What might have happened if the wind had been blowing in the opposite direction on the night of the fire? Construct a hypothesis.
6. Justify why the Great Fire of London is considered a turning point in the design and building regulations of the city.