The Great Fire of London: A Historical Challenge with Ellie

Learning objective: To recall key facts about the Great Fire of London, including when it happened, how it started, and how the city changed afterwards.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of the Great Fire of London to answer them. Look out for clues from Ellie the Elephant, who loves history!

Answer Key: 1. B (1666), 2. True, 3. Pudding Lane, 4. C (A bakery), 5. False (It started in a bakery), 6. Samuel Pepys, 7. Timber (wood), 8. A (To stop the fire spreading), 9. Brick, 10. True. Remember: The fire lasted from Sunday 2nd September to Thursday 6th September.

Word bank: Pudding Lane · 1666 · Samuel Pepys · St Paul's Cathedral · timber · bread · fire hooks

1. In which year did the Great Fire of London start? A) 1066 B) 1666* C) 1866 D) 1566 (1 mark)

2. True or False: The fire started in the middle of the night. (1 mark)

3. What was the name of the street where the fire began? (1 word) (1 mark)

4. What was the job of the person whose shop started the fire? A) Blacksmith B) Tailor C) Baker* D) Candle-maker (1 mark)

5. True or False: The fire started in a giant toy shop. (1 mark)

6. Which famous man wrote a diary about the Great Fire of London? (2 words) (1 mark)

7. Most houses in London at the time were made of what flammable material? (1 word) (1 mark)

8. Why did people pull down houses using fire hooks? A) To create a gap to stop the fire spreading* B) To find hidden gold C) To build new roads D) To escape the city (1 mark)

9. After the fire, what material were houses built with to make them safer? (1 word) (1 mark)

10. True or False: The fire destroyed many parts of London, including the old St Paul's Cathedral. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of a house in 17th-century London. Remember to draw the upper floors sticking out over the street and the timber frames!

Extension challenge: Imagine you are living in London in 1666. Write three diary entries as if you are watching the fire unfold. What do you see, smell, and hear?