Ellie’s Historical Eyewitness Account: The Great Fire of London

Learning objective: To understand the causes, events, and consequences of the Great Fire of London through a historical diary entry.

Imagine you are a resident of London in 1666. Use your historical knowledge to complete this diary entry. Think about what you might have seen, heard, and felt during those four days. Use the word bank to help you describe the scene.

Word bank: Pudding Lane · bakery · timber · flames · strong wind · St Paul's Cathedral · River Thames · bucket chain · 1666 · rebuild

1. The Beginning: Where did the fire start and what was the building used for? (2 marks)

2. The Spread: Why did the fire spread so quickly through the city streets? (3 marks)

3. The Escape: Describe what you would take with you if you had to leave your home in a hurry. (2 marks)

4. The Action: How did the people of London try to stop the fire from moving further? (3 marks)

5. The Aftermath: What happened to the city once the fire was finally put out? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Research how the buildings were different after the fire. Use your findings to write a short poem about the new city of London, perhaps in the style of Leo the Lion!