

Ellie's Great Fire of London Timeline Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the chronological events of the Great Fire of London in 1666 and identify key causes and consequences.

Ellie the Elephant has been reading historical diaries, but her notes have become muddled! Read the events below and place them in the correct chronological order (1-6). Then, use the word bank to explain why the fire spread so quickly and how the city changed afterwards.

Word bank: Pudding Lane · timber · thatch · strong winds · drought · St Paul's Cathedral · Brick · stone

1. 1. Number these events from 1 to 6 to show the correct order of the Great Fire of London:

- () The fire begins at a bakery on Pudding Lane.
- () King Charles II orders houses to be pulled down to create firebreaks.
- () The fire finally begins to die down after four days.
- () Strong winds blow embers onto nearby wooden houses.
- () People flee to the River Thames with their belongings.
- () A hot, dry summer makes the city buildings extremely flammable. (6 marks)

2. 2. Explain why the fire spread so easily across London in 1666, mentioning at least two factors from the word bank. (2 marks)

3. 3. After the fire, a new Act of Parliament was passed. Why did they decide to rebuild the city using brick and stone instead of wood? (2 marks)

4. 4. If you were a shopkeeper in 1666, what is one item you would have tried to save from your shop before fleeing to the river? (1 mark)

5. 5. Ellie wonders if the fire had any 'positive' outcomes. Describe one way the city was improved after the fire was extinguished. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Before and After' split-screen: On the left, show narrow, crowded wooden houses in 1666. On the right, draw a wider street with modern brick buildings and a clear space to show how the city layout changed.



Extension challenge: Research the architect Christopher Wren. Write a short diary entry from his perspective describing the challenge of redesigning London's skyline, including the new St Paul's Cathedral.