Reporting on the Great Fire of London

Learning objective: To structure an eye-witness account of the Great Fire of London using historical detail and chronological order.

Use this writing frame to help Ellie the Elephant recount the events of 1666. Ensure you use the past tense and include specific details about how the fire started and how it was eventually controlled.

The orange glow against the night sky was the first sign that Pudding Lane was no longer safe.

Word bank: catastrophic · frenzied · subsequently · consequently · in the early hours · amidst the chaos · flammable · devastation

1. Introduction: Describe the atmosphere in London just before the fire started. Start with: 'The city of London had been suffering from a long, dry summer, and the wooden houses were like...' (2 marks)

2. The Start of the Fire: Explain how the fire began and why it spread so rapidly. Start with: 'It began in a small bakery on Pudding Lane, where...' (3 marks)

3. The Response: Describe the attempts made to stop the flames. Start with: 'As the fire jumped from roof to roof, the citizens tried to...' (3 marks)

4. The Aftermath: Reflect on the state of the city once the fire was extinguished. Start with: 'When the smoke finally cleared, London was transformed into...' (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise what was learnt from this event. Start with: 'History remembers the Great Fire not only for its destruction but because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1666. Write a short, persuasive headline for a newspaper of the time and explain why you chose those specific words to capture the public's attention.