

The Great Fire of London: Ellie's Social Studies / History Challenge

Learning objective: To recall and apply knowledge about the causes, events, and consequences of the Great Fire of London in 1666.

Join Ellie the elephant on a trip back to 1666! Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of the Great Fire of London to answer them. Good luck!

Answer Key: 1. A (1666), 2. True, 3. Pudding Lane, 4. C (Timber and pitch), 5. True, 6. Samuel Pepys, 7. B (To commemorate the fire), 8. False (The fire was stopped by blowing up houses to create firebreaks), 9. St Paul's Cathedral, 10. True.

Word bank: Pudding Lane · 1666 · Samuel Pepys · St Paul's Cathedral · timber · monument · King Charles II

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

2. 2. True or False: The fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane. (1 mark)

3. 3. What was the name of the street where the fire first started? (1 mark)

4. 4. Why did the fire spread so quickly? A) It was a very wet summer B) The city was made of stone C) The houses were made of timber and pitch* D) Everyone left the city (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: Samuel Pepys kept a diary that is a vital historical source for understanding the fire. (1 mark)

6. 6. Who was the famous diarist who recorded his observations of the fire? (1 mark)

7. 7. What is the purpose of the tall column known as 'The Monument' in London today? A) To mark the start of the fire B) To commemorate the Great Fire of London* C) To store water D) To show where the King lived (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: The fire was easily put out by the city's fire engines. (1 mark)

9. 9. Which famous landmark was completely destroyed and later rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren? (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: After the fire, new laws stated that houses should be built from brick or stone instead of wood. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene from 1666 London showing the wooden houses with overhanging upper floors, and include Ellie the elephant looking at the skyline from a safe distance.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1666. Write a short diary entry (50-70 words) describing what you see, smell, and hear as you watch the fire spread across the city.