A Day in 1666: The Great Fire of London Diary Entry

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

Imagine you are living in London in September 1666. Use this diary template to record your experience of the Great Fire. Use the word bank and your historical knowledge of the time to describe the sights, sounds, and feelings of the city as the fire spread from Pudding Lane.

Word bank: Pudding Lane · bakery · timber-framed · draught · pitch · St Paul's Cathedral · River Thames · bucket chain · flammable · evacuate

1. The Start of the Blaze: Describe where you are, what you see happening at the bakery in Pudding Lane, and why the fire is spreading so quickly through the city streets. (4 marks)

2. The Response: How are you and your neighbours trying to stop the fire? Describe the equipment or methods being used to fight the flames. (3 marks)

3. The Escape: You must leave your home. Describe the items you choose to save and how you make your way towards the River Thames. (3 marks)

4. The Aftermath: Look back at the city from the safety of the river. How has London changed, and what do you think will happen to the buildings now? (3 marks)

5. Reflective Thought: If you were the King or the Mayor, what is one rule you would introduce to prevent a fire like this from happening again? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research how the fire eventually stopped. Write a short paragraph explaining the role of the firebreaks and the change in the wind direction.