History Assessment: The Great Fire of London

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the causes, events, and impact of the Great Fire of London in 1666.

Read each question carefully. Write your answers in the spaces provided. Remember to use full sentences for the longer answers.

In September 1666, a fire broke out in a bakery on Pudding Lane. Because the houses in London were built closely together out of wood and pitch, the fire spread rapidly. A strong wind pushed the flames across the city. Many people tried to escape by boat on the River Thames. The fire lasted for four days before it was finally brought under control.

Word bank: Pudding Lane · 1666 · Baker · Thames · Wooden · St Paul's Cathedral · Samuel Pepys

1. In which year did the Great Fire of London begin? (1 mark)

2. Where did the fire start and what was the profession of the person who lived there? (2 marks)

3. Explain two reasons why the fire spread so quickly across the city. (4 marks)

4. Who was Samuel Pepys and why is his diary important to historians today? (3 marks)

5. How did people try to escape the fire, and what natural feature did they use? (2 marks)

6. Name one major building that was destroyed during the fire. (1 mark)

7. Ellie the elephant is learning about history. Using your knowledge, write a short account (about 5-7 sentences) describing what happened to the city of London after the fire was put out. Think about how the city changed, how people lived, and what was built differently. (5 marks)

8. Why do you think it is important for us to learn about events that happened over 350 years ago? (7 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture showing how houses in 1666 were built close together. Label the wooden frames and the narrow street.

Extension challenge: Total: /25