The Great Fire of London Flashcards

Learning objective: To recall and understand key facts about the Great Fire of London as part of the Grade 2 History curriculum.

Read the front of the card to test your knowledge. Flip it over (or check the text after the line) to reveal the answer. Use these to quiz a partner!

In what year did the Great Fire of London begin?

1666

Where did the fire start?

A baker's store on Pudding Lane.

Why did the fire spread so quickly through the city houses?

The houses were made of wood (timber) and were built very close together with thatched roofs.

Who wrote a famous diary describing the events of the fire?

Samuel Pepys.

What was the main job of the King during the fire?

King Charles II helped lead the firefighting efforts and ordered the creation of firebreaks.

What is a 'firebreak'?

A gap created by pulling down houses to stop the fire from jumping to the next street.

Which famous London landmark was destroyed and later rebuilt by Christopher Wren?

St Paul's Cathedral.

How did the weather contribute to the fire spreading?

There had been a long, hot summer making everything dry, and strong winds fanned the flames.

What was one major change to how houses were built after the fire?

They had to be built from brick or stone instead of wood to make them fire-resistant.

How long did the Great Fire of London last?

Four days (from Sunday to Wednesday).

Who is our friend Ellie?

Ellie is the elephant who loves history and stories, and she says learning about the past helps us understand our world today!

Did the fire reach the whole of London?

No, but it destroyed a large part of the City of London, including thousands of homes and many churches.