Reporting on the Great Fire of London

Learning objective: To write a historical account of the Great Fire of London using chronological language and key facts.

Use the prompts below to help you write your historical report. Think about what Ellie the elephant taught us: always look at the timeline to keep your story in order!

In September 1666, a small spark in a bakery on Pudding Lane changed the city of London forever.

Word bank: suddenly · meanwhile · afterwards · due to · in addition · consequently · the following day · finally

1. The Start: Where and how did the fire begin? Start your paragraph with: 'The fire started at a bakery on Pudding Lane because...' (2 marks)

2. Spreading the Flames: Why did the fire spread so quickly across the city? You could mention the wooden houses and the wind. Start with: 'The fire spread rapidly because...' (2 marks)

3. The People's Reaction: What did the people of London do to escape the flames? Start with: 'Many frightened citizens decided to...' (2 marks)

4. The End of the Fire: How was the fire finally put out? Start with: 'After several days, the fire was finally brought under control when...' (2 marks)

5. Looking Back: What changed in London after the fire was extinguished? Start with: 'After the fire, the city was rebuilt by...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1666. Write a short 'Breaking News' headline for a newspaper that would have been printed on the 7th of September 1666.