The Great Fire of London: A Historical Sketch

Learning objective: To visually represent and label key features of London in 1666, identifying the causes and impact of the Great Fire.

Follow the drawing prompt below to create a historical scene of 1666 London. Use the word bank to label your diagram accurately. Ensure your labels point clearly to the features you have drawn.

Draw: Draw a street scene of London in 1666. Include tall, narrow timber-framed houses that lean towards each other at the top. Show a glow of orange and red flames emerging from a small bakery. In the background, draw the River Thames. Include a small group of people using long poles with metal hooks (fire hooks) to pull at a building. Use a detailed, historical sketch style.

Label words: Pudding Lane · Timber-framed houses · River Thames · Thatched roofs · Fire hooks · St Paul's Cathedral

Steps:

1. Why did the fire spread so quickly between the houses in 1666? Explain your reasoning.
2. Label your drawing to show where the fire started. What was the name of the bakery street?
3. What was the purpose of using a 'fire hook' during the Great Fire?
4. List two materials that made 17th-century houses in London very dangerous during a fire.

5. If you were living in 1666, why might you choose to flee towards the River Thames?