

FIRE! FIRE!

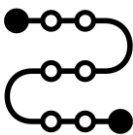


YEAR TWO AUTUMN TERM

NAME:

TEACHER:

Historical Skills

	<u>Use words and phrases relating to time.</u>
	<u>Understand where events and people fit into the past</u>
	<u>Identify similarities and differences between periods</u>
	<u>Use a wide range of historical vocabulary</u>
	<u>Ask and answer questions</u>
	<u>Show understanding from stories and other sources</u>
	<u>Identify how we find out about the past</u>
	<u>Identify different ways the past is represented.</u>

Great Fire of London

Key dates

1	Sunday 2 nd September 1666	A fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. As news of the fire spreads, people run to escape its path.
2	Monday 3 rd September 1666	Londoners try to tackle the fire but it spreads quickly. People carry their possessions to safety using a horse, cart or boats on the River Thames.
3	Tuesday 4 th September 1666	Houses are pulled down in an attempt to stop the fire spreading. St Pauls Cathedral is destroyed.
4	Wednesday 5 th September 1666	The fire starts to burn more slowly as the wind dies down.
5	Thursday 6 th September 1666	The fire is finally under control and put out. People are left homeless.

Key Vocabulary

1	Bakery	A place where bread or cakes are made and sold.
2	London	Capital city of England and the United Kingdom.
3	River Thames	Many people got on boats here to escape the fire.
4	Diary	A personal record of life's event.
5	Eye witness	A person who has seen something and can give a description of it.
6	Drought	A period of time when an area or place experiences below-normal rainfall.
7	Fire-hooks	Giant hooks used to pull down houses.
8	Parliament	Where rules and laws are approved.
9	Flammable	When something burns easily.
10	St Paul's Cathedral	A Christian building burnt to the ground in the fire and then rebuilt using designs by Sir Christopher Wren.



Samuel Pepys was a Member of Parliament who is most famous for the diary he kept during the fire.

Key Questions

1	When and where did the fire start?	The fire started in a bakery in Pudding Lane on 2 nd September 1666.
2	Why did the fire spread?	It hadn't rained for months so the city was very dry. In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood which burns easily. Houses were built too close together and there was no organised Fire brigade.
3	How did they fight the fire?	They used leather buckets and squirts filled with water, axes, fire-hooks and gunpowder to make fire-breaks.
4	How did the fire stop?	The fire burned for four days. As the wind died down and changed direction the fire became under control and was finally put out.
5	What happened after the fire?	London was rebuilt but in a smarter way. Fire brigades were set up. The fire also helped stop the spread of the Plague.

Other Significant figures

1	Thomas Farriner	An ember from one of Thomas' bakery ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.
2	John Evelyn	John Evelyn also wrote a diary documenting the events of the fire.
3	Sir Thomas Bloodworth	Sir Thomas Bloodworth was the Mayor of London at the time of the fire.
4	King Charles II	Charles II was the King of England in 1666. After the fire, he made a decree that houses must be built further apart and built from stone not timber.

Lesson One: The Great Fire of London

Key question: When and where did the Great fire of London begin?

What do we know about fire? Fire is a chemical reaction that releases light and heat. Flames are the part of a fire which we can see. They can be different colours, depending on the **substance** which is burning.

1. What do we know about fire and how is it used today?

- _____
- _____
- _____

The flames are lit

Early on the 2nd September 1666, a fire started in London (the capital city of England). The fire is thought to have started in a bakery in Pudding Lane. Before the fire began, there had been a **drought** in London that lasted for 10 months, so the city was very dry.

The shop belonged to the King's baker, Thomas Farriner. Although he claimed to have put out the fire, three hours later at 1am, his house was a blazing inferno.



Source:

<https://fireoflondon1666.weebly.com/start-of-the-fire.html>

2. Do you think Thomas Farriner to blame for starting the fire? Yes/No



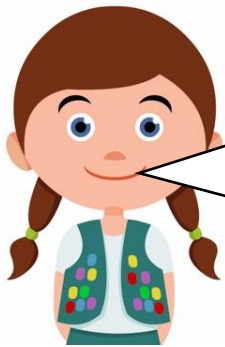
In 1666, fires in London were quite common. Homes didn't have **electricity**, so real flames were used for lighting, cooking, and heating homes.

Buildings were made out of wooden timbers and were built closely together, so once fires had started, it was pretty easy for them to spread.

The summer of 1666 had been particularly

dry, with drought making it more likely that fires would spread.

As the fire reached the River Thames, it passed over warehouses full of **flammable** materials like oil, which quickly set on fire. After just a few hours, London Bridge was on fire too.



It was all the weather's fault. The dry summer and wind caused the fire to spread.



The homes were made from wood, this is why the fire spread.

3. After reading the information, decide who you agree with. Justify your thinking:



Many Londoners thought the fire had been started deliberately, by a foreign spy. A Frenchman called **Robert Hubert** was even hanged for the crime. However, it wasn't until a year later it was declared an accident.

Review:

1. What year did the Great Fire of London start? 1066 1666 1996

2. Where did it start? Butchers Bakery Church

3. Who was wrongly blamed for the start of the fire?

Thomas Farriner Robert Hubert

4. Why did the fire spread so easily? Give two reasons.

a) _____

b) _____

5.

Draw

Define

Origin

Sentence

flammable

Lesson Two: Significant people

Key question: What can they tell us?

These days, if we want to know what's going on in the world, we find out easily through the news and social media.

Rewind back over three centuries ago, life was very different. There was no internet, no video-camera, no Snapchat or Instagram...How would people have documented the events of the 'Great fire' in 1666?



Samuel Pepys was an important English politician who worked in the government. He began keeping a diary in 1660 and wrote about famous events he witnessed. At the time, he didn't think that anyone would get to see it.

Source:

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/stuart/samuel-pepys-diary-fire-london-cheese-facts/>

Did You Know...?

Samuel Pepys was a British Member of **Parliament**.

Parliament is the group of people who make the laws for a country to follow.

Samuel Pepys diary is a **primary source** of information. Listen and follow as your teacher reads extracts from his diary on the next page to help you understand more about the fire.

September 2nd, 1666

Some of our maids sitting up late last night to get things ready against our feast today, Jane called up about three in the morning, to tell us of a great fire they saw in the City. So I rose, and slipped on my night-gown and went to her window, and thought it to be on the back side of Mark Lane at the farthest; but, being unused to such fires as followed, I thought it far enough off, and so went to bed again, and to sleep. . . . By and by Jane comes and tells me that she hears that above 300 houses have been burned down tonight by the fire we saw, and that it is now burning down all Fish Street, by London Bridge. So I made myself ready presently, and walked to the Tower; and there got up upon one of the high places, . . . and there I did see the houses at the end of the bridge all on fire, and an infinite great fire on this and the other side . . . of the bridge . . .

1a) How did Samuel Pepys initially react to news of the fire?



1b) What did he see when he looked out from the 'high place'?

September 3rd, 1666

About four o'clock in the morning, my Lady Batten sent me a cart to carry away all my money, and plate, and best things...

Which I did riding myself in my night-gown in the cart; and, Lord! to see how the streets and the highways are crowded with people running and riding, and getting of carts at any rate to fetch away things...

I am eased at my heart to have my treasure so well secured.

2) What did Samuel Pepys ensure he did on the second day of the fire? Why do you think he did this?



A writer and gardener named John Evelyn also kept a diary of the Great Fire of London. Here is an extract from his diary:

September 4th, 1666

The burning still rages; I went now on horseback, & it was now gotten as far as the Inner Temple, all Fleete streete, old bailey, Ludgate Hill, Warwick Lane, Newgate, Paules Chaîne, Watling-streete now flaming & most of it reduc'd to ashes... the Lead melting down the streets in a stream, & the very pavements of them glowing with a fiery rednesse, so as nor horse nor man was able to tread on them, & the demolitions had stopped all the passages, so as no help could be applied; the Easter[n] Wind still more impetuously driving the flames forwards. Nothing but the almighty power of God was able to stop them, for vaine was the help of man.

3a) Was the fire getting better or worse? Write down one phrase to explain how you know:



3b) Why do you think it is good to read about the past from two different people and not just one person?



Review:

Significant individual	Who is this?	Where did he work?	What is he remembered for?
			

2) Write true or false next to these statements:

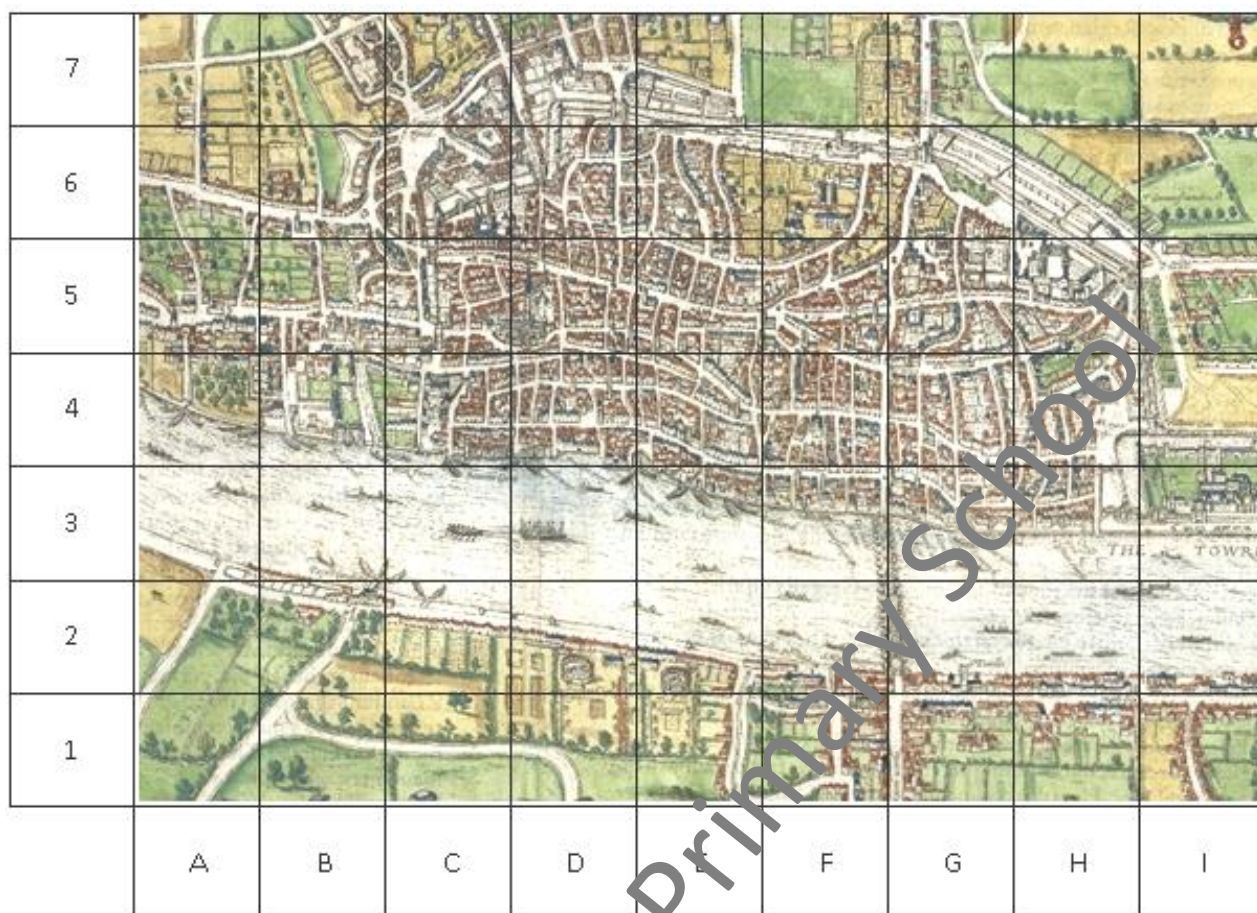
- a) Samuel Pepys diary is a primary source of information.
- b) At first Samuel Pepys was not too bothered about the fire.
- c) Samuel Pepys didn't keep any of his precious belongings.
- d) Samuel Pepys was the only person to keep a diary of the Great Fire of London.

Lesson Three: The fire's impact

Key question: What happened to London and its inhabitants?

London is the capital city of England. On the next page, you can see a map of London and we can use this to plot key

areas to gain a better understanding of how Londoners were affected by the fire.



1) Mark the parts of London in the Great Fire of London 🔍

Use this symbol	Name of area	Grid reference	Use this symbol	Name of area	Grid reference
	Pudding Lane (the small vertical road in the left corner)	G4		Moorfields	F7
	Seething Lane (home of Samuel Pepys)	H4		St Paul's Cathedral	C5 to D5
	London Bridge	F3 to G2		Tower of London	I3

What were the conditions like in a London home in 1666?

Nowadays, we simply turn a knob or press a button and we can switch on lights at night, warm our radiators and turn on an oven. There was no electricity back in 1666, as it hadn't been discovered yet. Electricity wasn't used to light our homes until 1879.

Until then, fire was used for a number of reasons within the home: To warm their homes, people had to light fires; To see in the dark, they had to light candles; To cook their food, they had to light a fire too.

The houses people lived in were often built of wood, straw and **pitch**. Only very fancy buildings, such as the **Tower of London**, were built of stone.

This was a problem because wood, straw and pitch are all flammable materials. Furthermore, the closeness of all the houses meant that the fire spread easily.

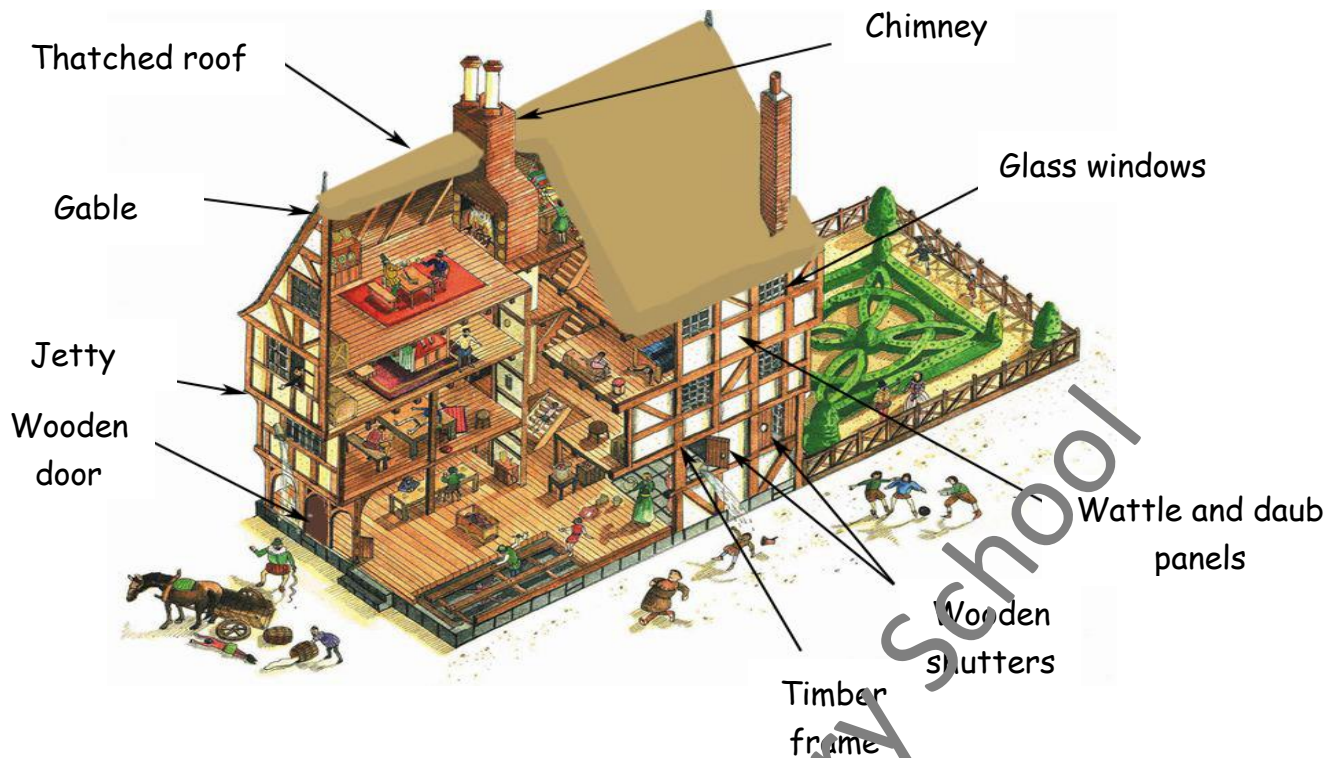


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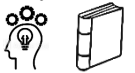
<https://www.onthisday.com/events/date/1666>

2) *The Tower of London managed to survive during the Great Fire of London. Why do you think this was?* 🔍

What did a London home look like in 1666?



3) Use the source of information to explain why the fire spread so quickly:



Unsurprisingly, house fires were very common in London during the 1600s. However, there was no fire brigade to call when a fire broke out. People would fight a fire by filling leather buckets with water and throwing it at the flames. They also had something called a **fire hook**, used to pull down houses to stop fires from spreading.

It took several men to pull down a house.

They would place the curved edge of the hook on top of the building and then pull it very hard until the building crumbled to the ground.



Source:

<https://www.history-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/The-Great-Fire-of-London/>

4. Can you summarise how the fire spread so quickly?



London houses in 1666 were built of _____, _____ and _____, which were _____ materials. This means they could easily catch _____. London streets were very _____ and many houses had _____ on the _____ floors which would lean out over the street. This made it easier for the fire to _____ to the houses opposite. House fires were very common but there was no _____ to call when a fire started. People would try to fight the fire by filling _____ with water and throwing it onto the flames. They also tried to stop fires from spreading by pulling down houses with a _____.

fire brigade

straw

jetties

narrow

fire hooks

pitch

fire

flammable

leather buckets

spread

upper

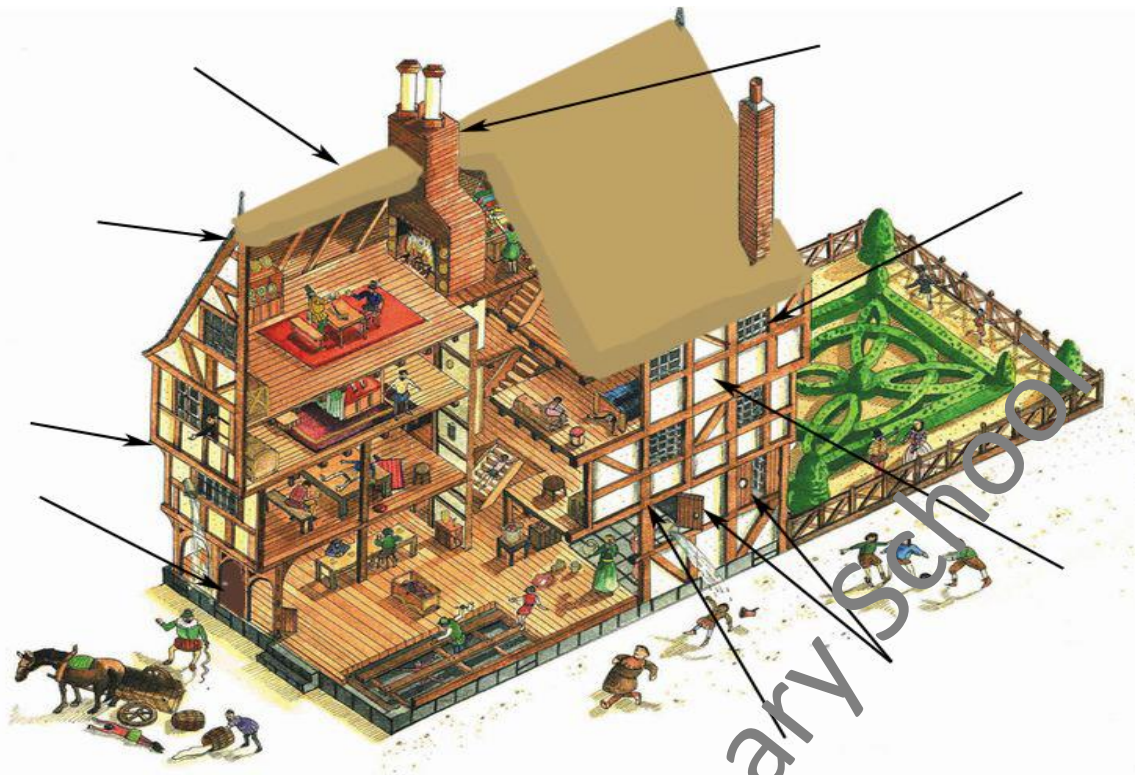
wood

Review:

1. Match the vocabulary with the definition

streets	were used for heating, lighting and cooking.
fires	people used buckets and fire hooks to tackle fires.
houses	were very narrow.
No fire brigade, so	is something that catches fire easily.
pitch	were built of wood, straw and pitch.
flammable	a black, sticky substance used for houses.

2. Label this London home from 1666...



Chimney

Timber frame

Glass windows

Wooden shutters

Gable

Wooden door

Wattle and daub panel

Thatched roof

Jetty

Lesson Four: People in charge

Key question: Could more have been done to prevent the fire?

By the morning of Monday 3rd September, 1666, neighbours came out to help put out the flames. At first it looked like this was an ordinary fire and people were not taking it seriously.

Did You Know...?

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Thomas Bloodworth, came to inspect the fire. He refused permission for houses to be pulled down with fire hooks in order to try and stop the fire as he didn't think the fire would spread...then, he went back to bed!

The Lord Mayor and Samuel Pepys woke up the following morning only to realise they had been wrong about the fire. The long drought had made London's wooden buildings **tinder-dry**, and far more likely to **ignite**. In addition, **gale-force** winds had swept into the city during the night. This was so strong that it sent sparks flying across several streets. In a short space of time, the fire had spread well beyond Pudding Lane.

Down by the river were many warehouses which stored all kinds of goods that were

brought to the city by ship. Many of these goods, such as **oil**, **tallow** and **pitch** were highly **flammable**. When the warehouses caught fire, these flammable goods ignited in an enormous explosion of flames. The narrow streets became full of people and carts, desperately trying to get away. This made it more difficult to fight the fire.

On the morning of Tuesday 4th September, the Lord Mayor eventually agreed to start pulling down houses, but it was too late.

1. Imagine you have been affected by the Great Fire of London. You have lost your home and many of your belongings. What questions would you ask for Sir Thomas Bloodworth?

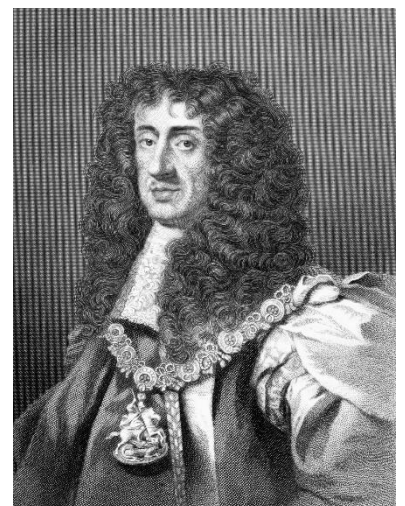


- _____

- _____

This is a portrait of King Charles II, King of England in 1666. Initially, Charles was unaware of the crisis because the bend of the river **obscured** the view of the city. Samuel Pepys ordered his boatman to make speed for Westminster, where he reported to the king.

Charles immediately sent word to the mayor ordering him to pull down buildings in order to **impede** the spread of the fire and promised troops to help him. In the afternoon, he went downriver to see the disaster for himself. He talked with the crowd of refugees, gaining detailed information and urging



Source:

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-II-king-of-Great-Britain-and-Ireland>

everyone to pull down buildings in the path of the fire. He was less than 100 metres from the blaze but appeared careless of the danger in his eagerness to help.

2. In your opinion, who reacted more like a leader when they heard the news of the fire?

Sir Thomas Bloodworth

☐

King Charles II

☐

Explain why you think this:



The extent of the destruction

Once the fire was finally extinguished on September 6th, Londoners were able to see just how much of their city had been destroyed. Altogether, 13,200 houses were burnt down or demolished. 86 churches were destroyed, among them St Paul's Cathedral - a very famous, large church. Over 70,000 people were made homeless, and the cost of all this destruction was enormous, perhaps as much as £10 million.



Source:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/the-great-fire-of-london-what-vision-rose-from-its-ashes/z72fmfr>

Review:

1. Are these questions true or false?

	True	False
A strong wind blew the flames to other houses.		
The buildings were mostly made of stone.		
There had been no rain, so London was very dry.		
The buckets were made of leather.		
The buildings were very far apart.		
The buildings were mostly made of wood.		
The buckets were made of metal.		
The people used hoses to put out the fire.		
It was raining in September 1666.		
The buildings were very close together.		

2) Who was the mayor of London at the time?

Sir Thomas Bloodworth

Samuel Pepys

King Charles II

3) Who was King of England at the time:

4) Who acted more heroically- Sir Thomas Bloodworth or King Charles II? Explain your opinion.

Lesson Five: Diary writing

Key question: What happened from Sunday 2nd September to Thursday 6th September, 1666?

In today's lesson, you will compose a diary as if you were present at the Great Fire of London, just like Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn. You might like to include the following in your diary:

<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Places</u>
Drought	Thomas Farriner	Bakery
Flammable	King Charles II	Tower of London
Wooden timber	Sir Thomas Bloodworth	River Thames
Fire hook		St Paul's Cathedral
Gale force wind		

Make notes in the table below to show what happened on these days:

Sunday 2 nd September:
Monday 3 rd September
Tuesday 4 th September
Wednesday 5 th September
Thursday 6 th September

Dear diary,



Grace Mary Primary School

Lesson six: Reasons to be grateful

Key question: Was the Great Fire good for London?



Source: https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/397794579561614221/?nic_v1=1gWt0A2wPf%2B31GYBFpTR1Fpiermuk426bHI4YKD6nlYppZw7wM1tB1wfl15r9PIEw

Rebuilding London

After the fire, Londoners' thoughts turned towards rebuilding their ruined city. Several people drew up plans for how London should be rebuilt, and **submitted** them to Charles II, the King of England.

1) *If you were given the task of redesigning London in 1666, what changes would you have made?* 🔍

- _____
- _____
- _____

Christopher Wren, who later became a very famous **architect**, drew up a plan. Wren's plan included wider streets which he designed in a grid- like pattern. He wanted London to become a **modern**, well-organised city.

Although King Charles II was keen on Wren's ideas, not a single plan was approved by **Parliament**. It would have been too expensive and complicated to redesign London with so many new, wide streets.

Many of the owners wanted to rebuild the houses where they had been before, therefore plans were abandoned. However, rules were put into place for the new houses to follow. All new houses had to be built out of brick or stone and houses in very

narrow streets were only allowed to be two storeys high.

The rebuilding process began, yet it took nearly 50 years to complete the task. Christopher Wren went on to design new buildings for London, most famously the new St Paul's Cathedral.

2) Name two rules that new houses had to stick to: 🔍

A new Fire Brigade

It cost an enormous amount of money to rebuild London, and some important people decided to set up fire brigades to protect **premises** - but only if they were insured.

Fire marks were used to identify - and advertise - different **insurance companies**. These marks were placed on the outside insured buildings. If a building was on fire, several

If a building was on fire, several brigades would attend as quickly as possible. The different brigades would use the fire marks to work out if a building was insured by their parent company. If they didn't see their specific fire mark attached to the

building, they would leave the property to burn.

However, firefighters received little training and the equipment used remained very basic.



Source:

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/fire-mark-collectible-insurance-crest>

Did You Know...?

You can still see some old fire marks on buildings today. If you ever visit London, try to find one.

The Plague

The Plague (The Black Death) was one of the most feared diseases in the 14th century. It was a type of plague that was spread via the bite of infected rat fleas. It was a **ghastly** disease. The victim's skin turned black in patches, combined with vomiting, swollen tongue and splitting headaches made it a horrible, agonising killer.

Around 1666 was the worst outbreak of plague in England since the black death of 1348. London lost roughly 100,000 people. Other parts of the country also suffered.

Rats carried the fleas that caused the plague. They were attracted by city streets filled with rubbish and waste,

especially in the poorest areas.

In 1666, the Great Fire of London destroyed much of the centre of London, but also helped to kill off some of the black rats and fleas that carried the plague.



Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Plague_of_London



3) *What benefits did the Great Fire of London bring to the city?*



Lesson Six: Assessment

Key question: If you could travel back in time, in order to stop the 'Great fire of London' from happening, would you?

Reasons to stop the fire	Benefits of the fire
•	•
•	•
•	•
•	•