

Great Fire of London

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SCHOOL HISTORY

The Great Fire of London 1666



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The state of the city of London in 1666
- The events that led to the Great Fire of London in 1666
- The damage caused by the Great Fire of London in 1666
- The aftermath of the Great Fire of London in 1666



FACT FILE

Let's find out more about
The Great Fire of London 1666!



In 1666, Londoners did not have protocols or even fire engines to put out fires. The design and proximity of buildings to one another did not help prevent the spread of fire.



The Great Fire of London of 1666 lasted less than five days, from the early hours of 2 September until the dawn of 6 September. The fire broke out after an oven fire at Thomas Farynor's bakery, along Pudding Lane.



Samuel Pepys, a clerk to the Royal Navy, recounted the tragedy of the fire in his diary. He was the one to inform King Charles II of the fire.



Portrait of
Charles II

King Charles II ordered the houses in the path of the fire to be destroyed by an explosion, to create a 'fire-break'.

A fire-break is a line created to prevent a fire from spreading.

A Frenchman named Robert Hubert confessed to starting the Great Fire, and was hanged for it. However, it was later proven that he was not in London when the fire started.

- The cost of the fire ran to 5 to 7 million pounds and saw 13,000 houses, 90 churches and 44 livelihood companies ruined.
- The Royal Exchange, the Guildhall (the offices of the Lord Mayor), and the old St. Paul's Cathedral were the most important landmarks destroyed.
- Architect Sir Christopher Wren rebuilt St. Paul's Cathedral as well as most of the city's churches.
- It took nearly 50 years to rebuild London, but with new regulations on house designs and infrastructures, it became one of the most organised and safest cities in the world.



Painting of The Great Fire of London, with Ludgate and Old St. Paul's circa 1670

London in 1666

London in 1666 was the centre of England's trade and finance, as it is today. It was also one of the largest cities in Europe with 350,000 people.

As there were no cars, buses, or lorries, the city was full of sheds and yards packed with hay and straw for people's primary mode of transportation and livelihood - animals.



- 1 BUILDING VOCABULARY.** Define the following terms based on your understanding of the historical context of the Great Fire of London 1666. (X marks)

A.FIRE-BREAK - _____
 B.TIMBER - _____
 C.PITCH - _____
 D.DROUGHT - _____
 E.CATASTROPHE - _____

- 2 SOURCE ANALYSIS.** Give your analysis of one of the pictures presented in "Cassell's Illustrated History of England, Volume 3". In line with this, examine the significance of the statement: "A hell of confusion and torment". (X marks)

SOURCE A





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This document contains potential answers to activities provided in each pack. Note that subjective/perspective type of activities may vary in sentence construction and grammar. Nonetheless, objective type of activities are provided with spot on answers.

- 1 BUILDING VOCABULARY.** Define the following terms based on your understanding of the historical context of the Great Fire of London 1666. (X marks)

A.FIRE-BREAK - **a line created to prevent a fire from spreading.**
 B.TIMBER - **wood used for buildings and structures.**
 C.PITCH - **flammable substance that keeps wooden materials together.**
 D.DROUGHT - **an extended period of low rainfall resulting in a shortage of water.**
 E.CATASTROPHE - **an event resulting in massive damages.**

- 2 SOURCE ANALYSIS.** Give your analysis on one of the pictures presented in "Cassell's Illustrated History of England, Volume 3". In line with this, examine the significance of the statement: "A hell of confusion and torment". (X marks)



THINK ABOUT THIS!

ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 14-16



- 1 **KEY ROLES.** Describe the role that the following people played during and after the Great Fire of London in 1666. (X marks)

SAMUEL PEPYS

KING CHARLES II

CHRISTOPHER
WREN

- 2 **TIMELINE OF EVENTS.** Detail the events of the Great Fire of London in 1666 in chronological order. Highlight four major events. (X marks)



THINK ABOUT THIS!

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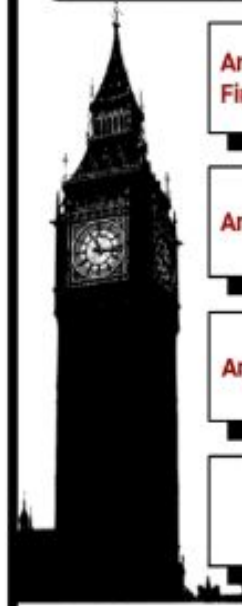
CHRISTOPHER
WREN

Clerk of the Royal
Navy who
recounted the
events in his diary.

King who ordered
the houses in the
path of the fire to
be destroyed by
an explosion to
create a 'fire-
break'.

Architect who
rebuilt St. Paul's
Cathedral as well
as most of the city
churches that
were ruined.

- 2 **TIMELINE OF EVENTS.** Detail the events of the Great Fire of London in 1666 in chronological order. Highlight four major events. (X marks)



Answer must include description of events during the Great Fire of London of 1666.

Answer must be declarative in format.

Answer must be in chronological order.



