



How did the Great Fire of London start?

HISTORY

Year 1

Spring Term

Overview

In 1666, London was a lively town with narrow streets, filled with thousands of people. The city quickly became overcrowded and nobody thought about the dangers that this may cause. On Sunday 2nd September, a baker forgot to sweep out his oven, which caught fire and burnt down his shop. Within moments, the whole street was alight. The fire quickly became uncontrollable and burnt for three days due to high winds. The fire left a huge amount of damage in London and it took a long time for the city to be rebuilt. In this unit, we will explore the cause and consequences of the Great Fire of London.



Knowledge & Understanding

In this unit, the pupils will:

- Identify similarities and differences ways of life in the past compared to the present.
- Re-tell some events from beyond their living memory which are significant nationally or globally.
- Make simple observations about different people, events, beliefs and communities.
- Recognise and describe how the Great Fire of London started and the reasons why it spread so quickly.

History skills

In this unit, the pupils will:

- Use sources to compare what London was like in the past compared to the present day.
- Use sources to find the answers to simple questions about the past.
- Use pictures to identify the damage that the fire caused and explore how London was rebuilt.

Home – school link project

During this topic, pupils can choose to:

- Create your own house from 1666 (Tudor style house).
- Create a newspaper front cover in your book, explaining what happened during the Great Fire of London.
- Make a model of the Great Fire of London.
- Create a fact file in your book of the Great Fire of London.

Topic Vocabulary

blaze- a large uncontrollable fire

control – to keep order

crowded- when there are too many people or things in one place

damage- when something is broken or needs repairing

danger- when someone or something is at risk of getting hurt

fire- when something burns

London- the capital city of England

narrow- something that is small and thin

poor- when someone doesn't have much money

rich- when someone has lots of money

spread- when something gets bigger

thatched- a roof made out of straw

Working Historically

change – when things don't stay the same

compare – to identify what is the same and what is different

different – things that are not the same

history – everything that has happened in the past

long ago – in the distant past

past – a period of time that has already happened

present – a period of time that is happening now

similar – things that are the same