

# The Great Fire of London



The Great Fire of London happened in 1666. It began in a bakery on Pudding Lane. The baker was called Thomas Farriner. The fire started at night, when many people were asleep.

At this time, lots of houses in London were made from wood. The houses were built very close together. This meant the fire could move from one house to the next very quickly.

The weather was also very dry, and a strong wind helped the flames spread. Soon, the fire was burning through streets and homes.

People tried to put the fire out with buckets of water, but the fire was too big. Many families had to leave their homes and move to safer places.

The fire burned for several days. It destroyed many buildings, but it also changed London. After the fire, people had to think carefully about how to make the city safer.

Directions: Use a coloured pen or pencil to highlight the evidence for each question, then write your answer.

1

Where did the Great Fire of London begin?

Blue

2

What year did the Great Fire of London happen?

Green

3

Why did the fire move from one house to the next very quickly?

Red

4

What did many families have to do when the fire got too big?

Orange

# Why Did the Fire Spread So Quickly?

The Great Fire of London spread very quickly.

In 1666, many houses in London were made from wood. Wood burns easily. The houses were also built very close together, so the flames could jump from one house to the next.



The streets were narrow, which made it hard for people to move around and put the fire out. People used buckets of water, but this was not enough to stop such a big fire.

The weather made things worse too. It had been very dry, so the wood was easier to burn. A strong wind blew the flames across the city.

The fire did not stop after one street. It kept spreading through London for several days. Many people had to leave their homes and carry their things to safer places.

Directions: Use a coloured pen or pencil to highlight the evidence for each question, then write your answer.

1

What were many houses in London made from?

Blue

2

Why could the flames jump from one house to the next?

Green

3

Find and copy one word that means the same as "small or thin".

Red

4

What made the fire spread across the city?

Orange

# Samuel Pepys

Samuel Pepys lived in London during the Great Fire of London. He wrote a diary about what he saw.

A diary is a book where someone writes about their life. Samuel Pepys wrote about the fire in 1666. His diary helps us learn what happened because he was there at the time.



Samuel saw smoke and flames spreading across London. He wrote that people were frightened and tried to save their things. Some people carried their belongings away in carts or boats.

Samuel was worried that the fire would reach his own home. He buried some of his special things in the ground to keep them safe.

Today, Samuel Pepys' diary is an important piece of history. It helps us understand what the Great Fire was like for people who lived through it.

Directions: Use a coloured pen or pencil to highlight the evidence for each question, then write your answer.

1 Find and copy one word that means scared.

Blue

2 What is a diary?

Green

3 Why did Samuel Pepys bury some of his special things?

Red

4 Why is Samuel Pepys' diary important today?

Orange

# The Baker's Apprentice



Tom was the baker's apprentice. He worked in a small bakery on Pudding Lane.

Each morning, Tom helped carry flour, mix dough and shape loaves of bread. The bakery was warm, and the smell of fresh bread filled the room.

One night, Tom woke to a strange crackling sound.

Crack! Pop! Hiss!

He sat up quickly. Smoke was creeping under the door. "Fire!" shouted the baker. "Wake up! We must get out!"

Tom grabbed his coat and ran outside. Flames were climbing up the bakery wall. The houses nearby were made from wood and stood very close together.

Soon, the fire jumped from roof to roof. People rushed into the street carrying bags, blankets and boxes. Some tried to throw buckets of water onto the flames, but the fire was too strong.

Tom felt scared, but he kept moving. He followed the baker through the busy streets to a safer place. Behind him, Pudding Lane glowed orange in the night. Tom hoped London would be safe again soon.

Directions: Use a coloured pen or pencil to highlight the evidence for each question, then write your answer.

1 Where did Tom work?

Blue

2 Find and copy the three sounds Tom heard when he woke up.

Green

3 Find and copy one word that means moving slowly.

Red

4 Why did the fire jump from roof to roof?

Orange

# Flames in the City

Smoke curled up into the sky,  
Flames leapt high and bright.  
People hurried through the streets,  
Carrying bags at night.



Buckets splashed and church bells rang,  
Feet ran on the ground.  
Crackling roofs and shouting crowds  
Filled the city with sound.



Wooden houses, close together,  
Helped the fire spread.  
Orange light filled London's streets,  
As people rushed ahead.

At last, the flames began to fade,  
The smoke blew far away.  
London had to build again  
And make a safer day.



Directions: Use a coloured pen or pencil to highlight the evidence for each question, then write your answer.

1 What curled up into the sky?

Blue

2 Find and copy one word that means moved quickly.

Green

3 Find and copy one pair of rhyming words from the poem.

Red

4 What sounds could people hear in the city? Use evidence from the poem.

Orange

# How London Changed After the Fire

The Great Fire destroyed many homes and buildings in London.

After the fire, people had to rebuild the city. They wanted London to be safer, so a fire like this would not spread so quickly again.

New buildings were made from brick and stone instead of wood. Brick and stone do not burn as easily as wood.

Some streets were made wider too. This meant the buildings were not as close together.



The Great Fire was a terrible event, but it helped people learn how to make London safer. The new city was built more carefully than before.

Directions: Use a coloured pen or pencil to highlight the evidence for each question, then write your answer.

1 What did the Great Fire destroy?

Blue

2

What were new buildings made from after the fire?

Green

3

Why were brick and stone safer than wood?

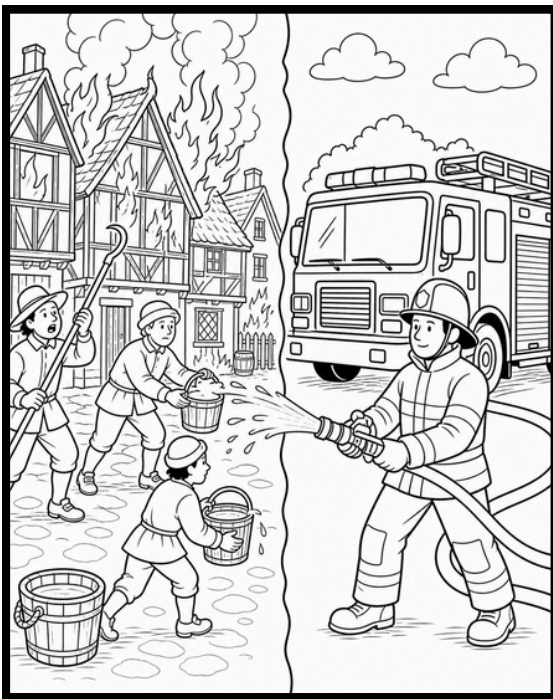
Red

4

How was the new city different after the fire?

Orange

# Firefighting Then and Now



In 1666, there were no fire engines like we have today. There was also no modern fire brigade.

When the Great Fire started, people tried to put it out themselves. They used leather buckets filled with water. Some people passed the buckets along in a line.

People also used long hooks to pull down burning buildings. This helped make gaps between houses, so the fire had less to burn.

Today, firefighters have much better equipment. They use fire engines, long hoses, ladders and protective clothing. Firefighters are trained to help people and keep them safe.

We also have smoke alarms to warn us if there is a fire. Firefighting has changed a lot since 1666. Today, people can get help much more quickly.

Directions: Use a coloured pen or pencil to highlight the evidence for each question, then write your answer.

1 What did people use to carry water in 1666?

Blue

2 Find and copy one word that means taught how to do something.

Green

3 Name two things firefighters use today.

Red

4 How is firefighting today different from firefighting in 1666?

Orange

# Mark Scheme



Before your child answers the questions, encourage them to go back to the text and highlight the evidence that helps them. This means finding the word, phrase or sentence that gives them the answer or clue.

This is an important comprehension skill because it teaches children to prove their answers using the text, rather than guessing or relying on memory.

Your child does not need to highlight large chunks of the text. A short phrase or sentence is usually enough.

## Helpful tips for struggling children

If your child is finding it tricky, try these steps:

1. Read the text together first.

Encourage your child to follow along with their finger.

2. Look back at the text.

Remind them that the answer is usually in the text.

3. Highlight the clue.

Use a coloured pencil to mark the word or sentence that helps.

4. Use the question to answer.

Example: The fire started...

5. Ask, "How do you know?"

This helps your child explain their answer using evidence.

6. Keep it positive.

Do one text at a time and praise effort.

## The Great Fire of London

Question	Answer	Evidence to Highlight	Marks
1	It began in a bakery on Pudding Lane.	"It began in a bakery on Pudding Lane."	1
2	It happened in 1666.	"The Great Fire of London happened in 1666."	1
3	The houses were made from wood and were built very close together, so the fire could spread quickly.	"houses in London were made from wood" and "built very close together"	2
4	Many families had to leave their homes and move to safer places.	"Many families had to leave their homes and move to safer places."	2

# Mark Scheme



## Why Did the Fire Spread So Quickly?

Question	Answer	Evidence to Highlight	Marks
1	Many houses were made from wood.	“many houses in London were made from wood”	1
2	The houses were built very close together, so the flames could jump from one house to the next.	“The houses were also built very close together”	2
3	narrow	“The streets were narrow”	2
4	The strong wind blew the flames across the city. Children may also mention the dry weather.	“A strong wind blew the flames across the city” / “It had been very dry”	2

## Samuel Pepys

Question	Answer	Evidence to Highlight	Marks
1	frightened	“people were frightened”	1
2	A diary is a book where someone writes about their life.	“A diary is a book where someone writes about their life.”	1
3	He buried his special things to keep them safe from the fire.	“He was worried that the fire would reach his own home” and “to keep them safe.”	2
4	It is important because it helps us understand what the Great Fire was like for people who lived through it.	“It helps us understand what the Great Fire was like for people who lived through it.”	2

# Mark Scheme



## The Baker's Apprentice

Question	Answer	Evidence to Highlight	Marks
1	Tom worked in a small bakery on Pudding Lane.	"He worked in a small bakery on Pudding Lane."	1
2	"Crack! Pop! Hiss!"	"Crack! Pop! Hiss!"	1
3	creeping	"Smoke was creeping under the door."	1
4	The fire jumped from roof to roof because the houses were made from wood and stood very close together.	"The houses nearby were made from wood and stood very close together."	2

## Flames in the City

Question	Answer	Evidence to Highlight	Marks
1	Smoke curled up into the sky.	"Smoke curled up into the sky"	1
2	hurried	"People hurried through the streets"	1
3	Possible answers: sky / bright, rang / ground does not rhyme, fade / away is a near rhyme, again / day does not rhyme. Best answer: sky / high from lines 1 and 2.	"Smoke curled up into the sky, / Flames leapt high and bright."	1
4	People could hear buckets splashing, church bells ringing, roofs crackling and crowds shouting.	"Buckets splashed and church bells rang" and "Crackling roofs and shouting crowds"	2

# Mark Scheme



## How London Changed After the Fire

Question	Answer	Evidence to Highlight	Marks
1	The Great Fire destroyed many homes and buildings in London.	“destroyed many homes and buildings”	1
2	New buildings were made from brick and stone.	“New buildings were made from brick and stone”	1
3	Brick and stone were safer because they do not burn as easily as wood.	“Brick and stone do not burn as easily as wood.”	2
4	The new city was built more carefully. Some streets were wider and buildings were not as close together.	“Some streets were made wider” and “buildings were not as close together”	2

## Firefighting Then and Now

Question	Answer	Evidence to Highlight	Marks
1	People used leather buckets filled with water.	“They used leather buckets filled with water.”	1
2	trained	“Firefighters are trained to help people”	1
3	Firefighters use fire engines, long hoses, ladders and protective clothing.	“They use fire engines, long hoses, ladders and protective clothing.”	2
4	In 1666, people had to put fires out themselves with buckets and hooks. Today, trained firefighters use better equipment and people can get help more quickly.	“people tried to put it out themselves” and “Today, firefighters have much better equipment.”	2