



History

The Great Fire of London

Background Information

This Great Fire of London unit will teach the children about the key events of the Great Fire of London, and help them develop an understanding of the ways in which we can find out about the past through discussing primary sources. In doing so, this unit also provides an introduction to Samuel Pepys and his infamous diary. The children will have the opportunity to increase their awareness of the past by comparing and contrasting past and present-day London, as well as looking at how life was different in the 17th century.



In this unit the children will...

- ⇒ Develop an awareness of the past by finding out some of the ways in which London has changed.
- ⇒ Identify differences and similarities between ways of life in different periods by describing some of the ways in which how we live now is different to how people lived in 1666.
- ⇒ Know and understand key features of an event beyond living memory that is nationally significant by finding out how the Great Fire of London started and spread.
- ⇒ Understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past and identify different ways in which it is represented by finding out how we know about the Great Fire .
- ⇒ Understand key features of events, choosing and using parts of stories and asking and answering questions to find out how London was rebuilt after the Great Fire.
- ⇒ Understand key features of events, choosing and using parts of stories and asking and answering questions to show what I have learned about the Great Fire of London.

By the end of this unit....

All children should be able to:

- Talk about some of the key events of the Great Fire of London.
- Say why the Great Fire of London spread and eventually stopped.
- Explain that we know about the Great Fire because of Samuel Pepys' diary.

Most children will be able to:

- Explain how we know about the Great Fire of London from a variety of primary sources.
- Show awareness of how London has changed, including its buildings, people and transport.
- Write a report about the Great Fire of London.

Some children will be able to:

- Explain their reasons why some sources are more useful than others in their historical enquiry.
- Start questioning the reliability of some historical evidence.
- Imagine and write about the experiences of people in different historical periods based on factual evidence.



Key Vocabulary

Year, century, Britain, London, capital city, past, present, old, modern, change, River Thames, chimney sweep, blacksmith, apothecary, rat-catcher, gong farmer, spinster, chandler, scullery maid, carpenter, fire fighter, order, event, timeline, source, evidence, diary, eyewitness, Samuel Pepys, King Charles II, architect, Lord Mayor, Sir Christopher Wren, St Paul's Cathedral, monument, newspaper report, The London Gazette.