

The Great Fire of London

History | KS1 | Planning Overview

Introduction

This Great Fire of London unit will teach your class about the key events of the Great Fire of London and help them to develop an understanding of the ways in which we can find out about the past.

The children will have the opportunity to increase their awareness of the past by learning about what London was like in the 17th century. They compare life in the 17th century to the present day and consider how some problems, such as the lack of an organised fire brigade and the type of buildings, caused the fire to spread. Children then focus on how and why some things changed as a result of the fire, in order to be safer. They begin to learn how historical sources can tell us about what happened in the past and how some sources are more useful than others.

Home Learning

Thomas Farriner's Diary:

After learning about how the Great Fire of London started, children can complete this task in which they imagine that they are Thomas Farriner and describe in a diary entry what happened on the morning of the fire. They can explore how he felt and what he could see, hear and smell.

St Paul's Cathedral: Then and Now:

After learning about how and why London changed after the fire, children can complete this task in which they compare St Paul's Cathedral before and after the Great Fire, when it was rebuilt after being destroyed. They can think about why certain changes were made, such as using stone rather than wood.

Assessment Statements

By the end of this unit...

Working Towards the Expected Level:

- With support, children can explain some ways that London was different in the 17th century.
- With support, children can discuss and order some of the key events of the Great Fire of London.
- With support, children can explain how the fire spread and finally stopped.
- With support, children can explain that we know about the Great Fire because of historical sources, such as Samuel Pepys' diary.

Working At the Expected Level:

- Children can explain how and why London was different in the 17th century.
- Children can explain and order the key events of the Great Fire of London.
- Children can explain how and why the fire spread and finally stopped and what changed afterwards.
- Children can explain that we know about the Great Fire because of historical sources, such as Samuel Pepys' diary and begin to understand that some sources are more helpful than others.

Working At Greater Depth:

- Children can explain how and why London was different in the 17th century in a variety of different ways.
- Children can explain and order the key events of the Great Fire of London in detail.
- Children can explain how and why the fire spread and finally stopped, what changed afterwards and why.
- Children can explain why some historical sources are more useful for learning about the fire than others.

Lesson Breakdown

1. London: Past and Present

To develop an awareness of the past.

To compare past and present London.

Resources

[Lesson Pack](#)



2. Life in the 17th Century

To identify differences and similarities between ways of life in different periods.

To explain how people live now is different to how people lived in 1666.

Resources

[Lesson Pack](#)



3. The Events of the Great Fire

To know and understand key features of an event beyond living memory that are nationally significant.

To order the events of the Great Fire of London.

Resources

[Lesson Pack](#)



4. How Do We Know About the Great Fire?

To understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past and identify different ways in which it is represented.

To explain how we know about the Great Fire of London.

Resources

[Lesson Pack](#)



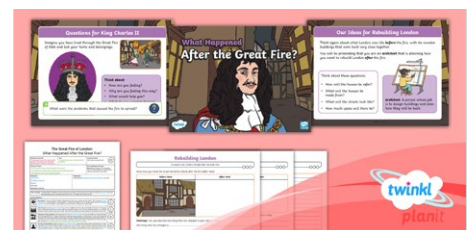
5. What Happened After the Great Fire?

To understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past and identify different ways in which it is represented.

To explain how London changed after the Great Fire.

Resources

[Lesson Pack](#)



6. What Have We Learnt about the Great Fire?

To understand key features of events, choosing and using parts of stories and asking and answering questions.

To describe London before, during and after the Great Fire.

Resources

[Lesson Pack](#)

