



The Great Fire of London 1666

A Significant Event
KS1 History

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HARINGEY
EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP

The Great Fire of London



Teaching a significant event

Questions to think about:

1. Why was the Great Fire important?
2. What was London like in 1666?
3. What were the causes of the Great Fire?
4. What are the order of events in September 1666?
5. Why did the fire spread so quickly?
6. How did the Great Fire Change London?
7. Can we find out what from people who were there?
8. What can we learn from The Monument?

Vocabulary

The Great Fire of London

Topic Vocabulary

Fire

Thames

Wooden Houses

Weather

Stuart

Pudding Lane

Cathedral

Diary

Capital

Hot summer

Monument

Samuel Pepys

Concepts

Chronology

Significant

Causes

Impact

Change

Technology

Primary Sources

Artefact

Century

Decade

Monarch

Literacy

Before

Earlier

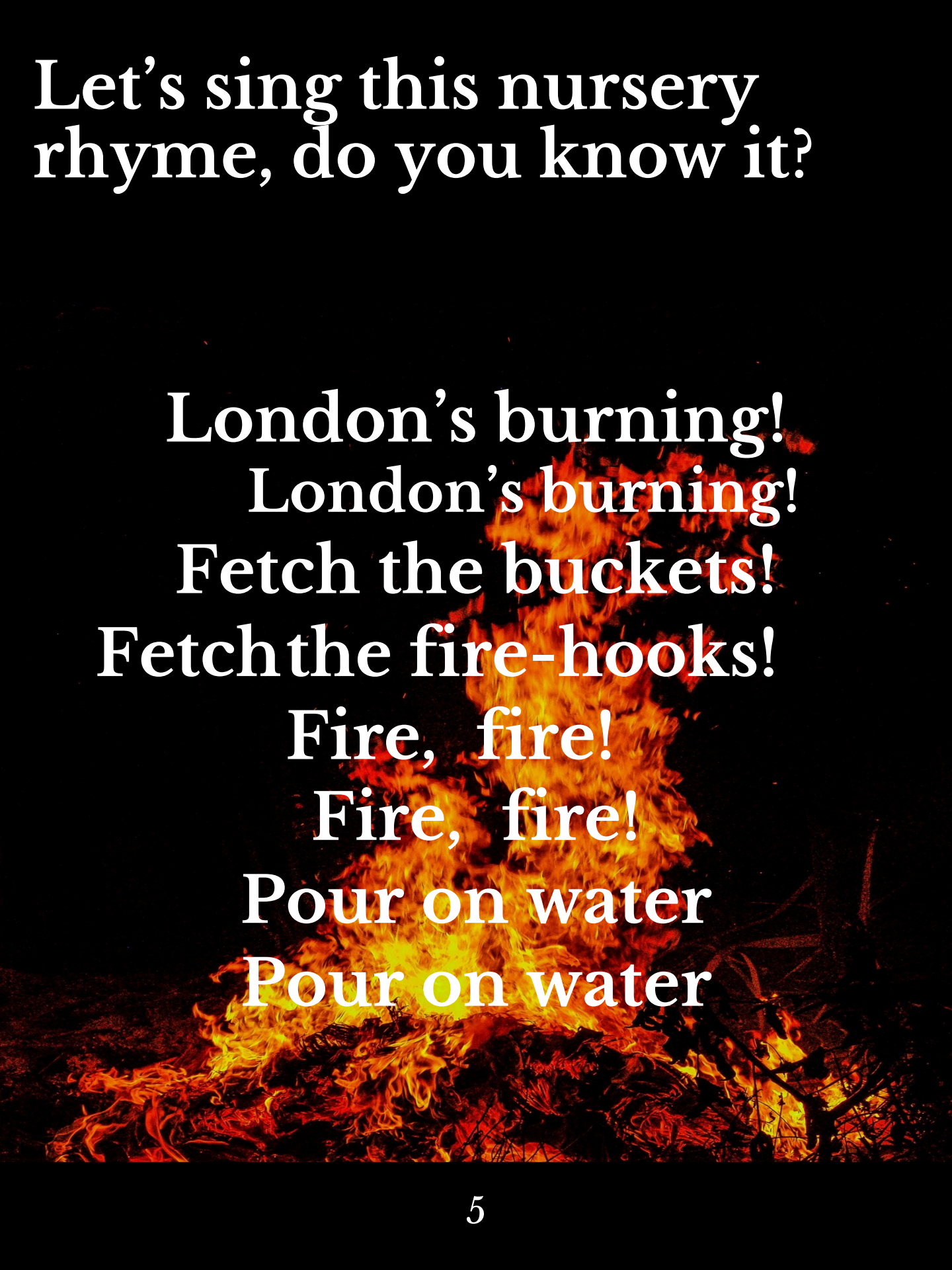
Later

Firstly

Secondly

Finally

Let's sing this nursery
rhyme, do you know it?



London's burning!
London's burning!
Fetch the buckets!
Fetch the fire-hooks!
Fire, fire!
Fire, fire!
Pour on water
Pour on water

Let's start the story of the Great Fire of London in 1666

In 1677, the King had a monument built to commemorate the Great Fire of London.

The Monument is situated where the fire started on Pudding Lane and is 202 feet tall.

Let's find out why they built this and why the fire was important.

A monument is a structure built to remember a significant event.

Let's go back to 1666...



What happened?

The Great fire started in a bakery, near Pudding Lane on the night of 2nd September, 1666 when London was a lot smaller than today.

The bakery was owned by Thomas Farriner. A spark from one of his ovens probably started the fire and the houses were built of wood so they quickly caught fire.

The fire swept through London for four days. It destroyed 13,200 houses, 87 churches, and even St Paul's Cathedral.

People had to use horse-drawn carts to bring water up to the burning buildings because there were no proper fire engines.



What happened?

The fire stopped when the wind stopped and later people used gunpowder to destroy houses so the fire could not spread. People escaped the fire often by getting into boats on the River Thames.

A man called **Samuel Pepys** kept a diary about the Great Fire. The Diary is one of the best records of the Great Fire of London we call it a **historical source**.

So many homes were destroyed that later King Charles II ordered the city to be rebuilt with houses made of stone and brick. Sir Christopher Wren was a famous architect. Later he designed the new St. Paul's Cathedral which took 35 years to build.



What was London like before the Great Fire?

St Paul's
Cathedral

large

wooden

water

boats

River Thames

bridge

churches

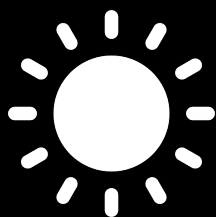
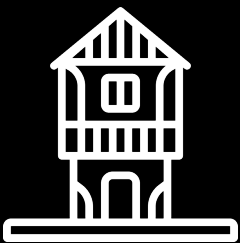
narrow

Let's go on a walk around LONDON with two visitors in August 1666.

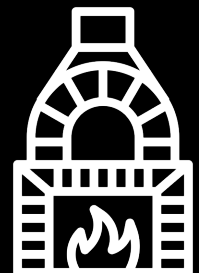
Leo and Roberta got off their boat having sailed from Italy in the last week of August 1666. It was a hot summer and the water was low. They were delivering fine cloth made of silk from China. The London air did not smell good. They walked across London Bridge and then under the gateway into the city of London. They could see lots of churches which were the tallest buildings. St Paul's was the largest church.

The streets were narrow and the houses and shops were built of wood. The streets were very busy. Someone told them it had been a hot summer in London. They noticed there were lots of bakers and their ovens were glowing with the flames. Shortly, they turned into Pudding Lane, buying a loaf of bread from the King's Bakers. In one week, Pudding Lane would be gone and a fire would destroy much of Old London.

Read the Passage above can you spot any clues that may explain why the Great Fire of London spread so quickly?



10



Describe London

London had lots of wooden hou_ _ _

The Streets were na_ _ _ w

The most important building was St

P_ _ _ _ C_ _ _ _ _ _

Water came from the River Th_ _ _ _ _

There were also lots of b_ _ _ _ _ on

the River T_ _ _ _ _

Thames

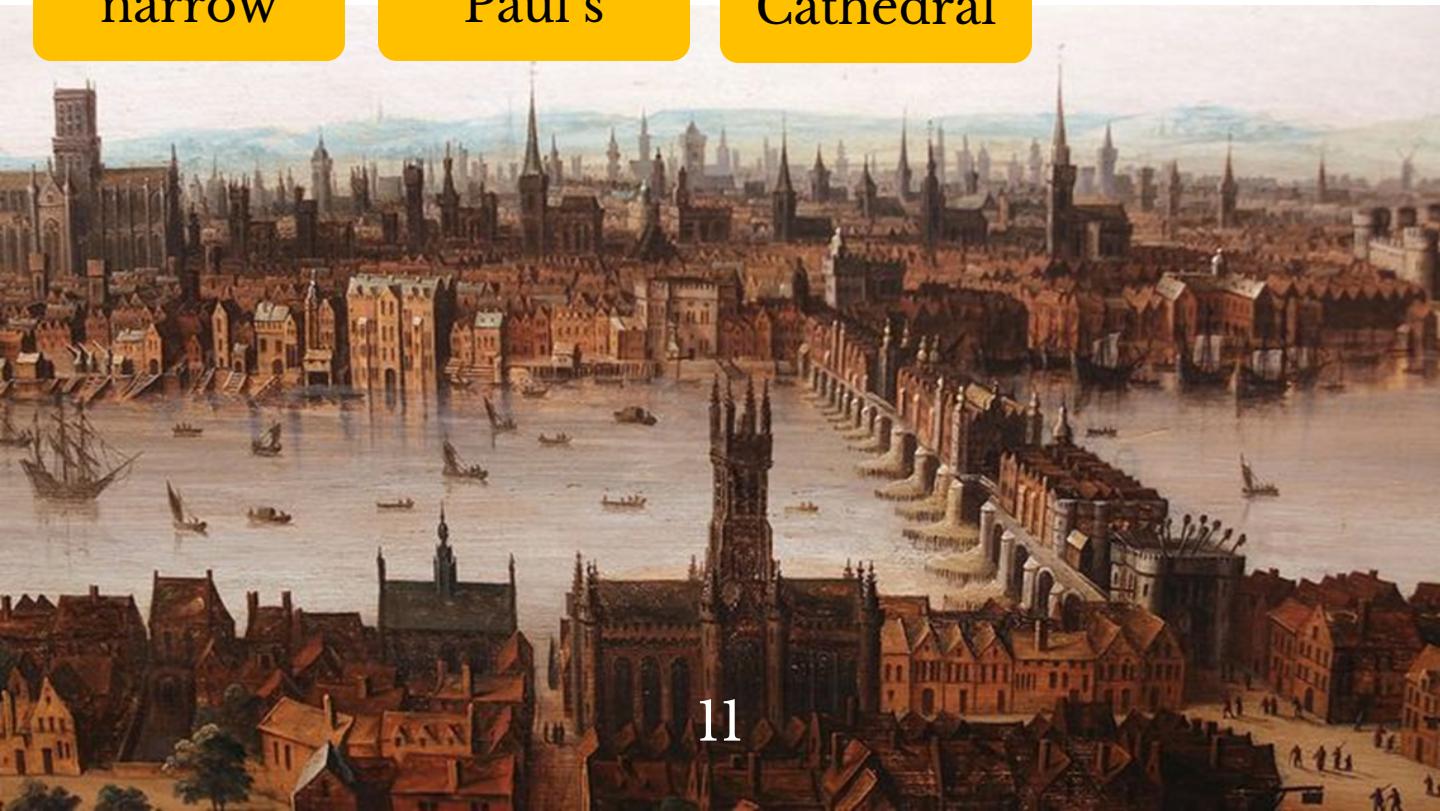
boats

houses

narrow

Paul's

Cathedral



The Great Fire starts 2nd of September 1666

The Great Fire of London started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane belonging to Thomas Farynor (Farriner). Thomas had left his oven burning.

By early morning the bakery was on fire and spreading quickly to other wooden house.

The Great Fire spread rapidly to other streets and burnt houses down because they were built of wood, this was helped by a very strong wind blowing the flames.

The Great fire starts to burn the London down. 2nd & 3rd of September 1666

At first, no one was worried because fires were common at the time. The Lord Mayor looked at the fire and went back to bed. However, the fire moved quickly down Pudding Lane and carried on down Fish Hill and towards the River Thames.

On the 3rd of September, it spread more rapidly, caused by a strong wind from the east.



When it reached the Thames it burnt warehouses stocked with products including oil and tallow which caused the fire to grow larger.

Think! What mistakes were made that could have helped stop the fire?

Putting the Fire out

5th September 1666

Finally, the Mayor ordered the use of fire hooks to pull-down burning buildings but the fire continued to spread. The King even blew up some buildings to stop the fire spreading. All they had were small hoses, small fire machines and buckets. Some also prayed to stop the fire. King Charles II helped to pull down houses to stop the fire spreading.



People escape a burning London

6th September 1666

Houses burned easily and quickly because they were made from wood, straw and built close together along narrow streets. People quickly lost their homes and belongings in the fire.

By the 6th September much of London was burnt to the ground including St Paul's Cathedral that could be seen burning miles away from London.

People jumped into boats to escape the fire. Whilst they were in their boats they asked each other

**Why did the Great Fire happen?
Why did it spread so quickly?**



Check you remember

1. The year of the Great Fire was _____

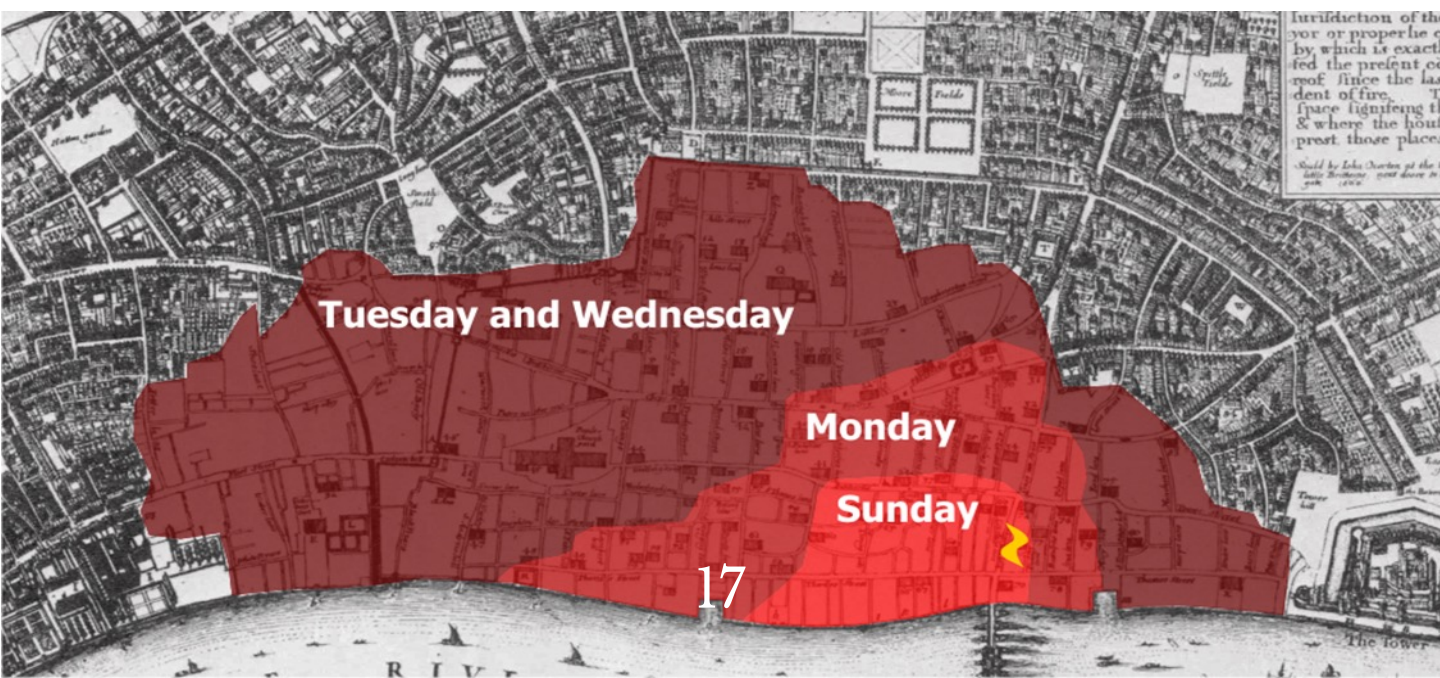
2. The Fire started in which month? _____

3. The Fire started in a _____ The house burnt quickly because

Let's think about Chronology

Put the Great Fire events in date order

1.	Sunday 2 September 1666: fire broke out in a bakery on Pudding Lane in London a little after midnight, and eventually spread across most of the city
2.	1677: The monument to the Great Fire of London was finished
3.	Wednesday 5 September 1666: King Charles 2 nd blew up houses to prevent the fire from spreading.
4.	Tuesday 4 September 1666, 8pm: St Paul's Cathedral catches fire. The fire can be seen miles away
5.	Thursday 6 September 1666: The very last fire was extinguished early in the morning by a crew led by Samuel Pepys. King Charles helped to remove houses.



Hello! I am a fire starter detective, can you answer my questions?



Was there something different about the weather?



Where do we think it started and how quickly did people put it out?



I hear the Lord Mayor went back to bed, is this true?



Why did people's houses burn so quickly?

The background of the slide is a photograph of the Great Fire of London, showing the skeletal remains of buildings and a large fire in the sky. Overlaid on this are four yellow circles, each containing a cause of the fire's spread. The text is in a white serif font.

Enquiry question:

Causation

Why did the Great Fire spread so quickly?

The
weather

The
houses

People's
actions

The fire
equipment

Write down these four causes why the Great Fire spread so quickly.

Wood houses

Weather

Mistakes

Equipment

Which point goes under each heading to explain why the fire spread so quickly?

The wind **blew** the flames making them spread quickly.

The houses were made of **wood and straw** and built close to each other.

People made the mistake of staying in bed. Who stayed in bed?

The hoses were not long enough and the buckets were **too small** to put the fire out.

Diary of SAMUEL PEPYS

Selected Passages

Edited by
Richard Le Gallienne

Samuel Pepys
saw the Great
Fire and wrote
about it in his
diary.

Let's look at a part Samuel Pepys diary where he describes the Great Fire

SAMUEL PEPYS' DIARY 2nd September, 1666

So, I made myself ready and walked to the Tower and there I did see the houses at that end of the bridge all on fire. The Lieutenant of the Tower, who tells me that it begun in the King's baker's house in Pudding Lane, and that it has burned down St Magnus's Church and most part of Fish Street already. Everybody is trying to move their goods or fling them into the river or bring them to boats. Poor people stay in their houses until the fire touches them. Then they run into boats and the wind blew the fire.

What facts can you spot ?

How do we know this source is true?

This is the front page of a story book

THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON AND FOUR PEOPLE WHO SAW IT



Does the front cover show the truth?

The impact of the Great Fire

Fact 1: Hundreds of people lost their homes

Fact 2: Eighty-nine churches and St Paul's Cathedral were destroyed.

Fact 3: The loss of property was estimated at £5 to £7 million.

Fact 4: King Charles II gave the fire fighters a generous purse of 100 guineas to share between them.

Fact 5: The dirty streets had been burnt down.

Selection: what are the happy facts and sad facts?



What would happen to London after the Fire in 1666?

Here are some ideas which do you think people liked the most?



Let's keep London as it was and rebuild all the old buildings



Let's make sure we do not have any more bakeries in London



Let's rebuild London using brick and stone and wider streets.

AN EXACT SURVEIGH OF THE STREETS, LANES AND CHVRCHES CONTAINED WITHIN THE RUINES OF THE CITY OF LONDON FIRST DESCRIBED IN SIX PLATS BY JOHN LEAKE JOHN LENNINGS WILLIAM MARR WILLIAM THOMAS STREET & RICHARD SHORROGHOVE IN 1666 & 1688. BY THE ORDER OF THE LORD MAYOR ALDERMEN AND COMMON COUNCELL OF THE SAID CITY

The Prospect of this City, as it appeared from the opposite Southwarke side in the fire time



What do you notice about London?



The right in the light of the Lord Mayor of London 1666



Standard of the City of London
 The City of London is a city and county in southern England, forming part of the Greater London conurbation. It is the second most densely populated area in the United Kingdom, with a population of approximately 800,000. The city is bounded by the River Thames to the south and the River Lea to the east. It is a major financial and commercial center, home to the London Stock Exchange and the City of London Corporation. The city is divided into numerous parishes and is known for its historic architecture and landmarks, including St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London.

MAP OF THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON 1666
 Based on an original map by the City of London Corporation, and reworked for publication by © Old House Books, September 2013.

Look at this painting of London after the Great Fire

What do you notice about how London changed?



How did London change after the Fire?

Which are change statements ?

Which are stayed the same ones?

1. After the Great Fire, there was a new St Paul's Cathedral
2. After the Great Fire, houses were built of Brick
3. After the Great fire, there were still the same streets
4. After the Great Fire, the fire service had more equipment
5. After the Great Fire, St Paul's was still in the same place.
6. After the Great Fire, there was still the River Thames
7. After the Great Fire, 52 new churches were built.

S. Pauwls Church

5. y Waterhouse

S. Andre in Holborne

Stygat



What has
changed
and stayed
the same?



Use what you know about the Great Fire

Why is this not the Great Fire?

