



HEAP BRIDGE VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

What causes, implications and impact did the Great Fire of London have on our capital city?

Year 2 – Autumn Term



Unit overview

Children will look at the question: What happened on the night of 2nd September 1666? They will consider different sources of evidence and elicit from these what life was like in London in 1666 alongside the causes, implications and impact that the Great Fire had on our capital city.

Links to prior/future learning

Children will build on the time related vocabulary and timelines.

Key objectives: A study of the Great Fire of London and the causes, implications and impact it had on our capital city.

Period overview, a brief history of London in the 1660s.

By the 1660s, London was by far the largest city in Britain, estimated at half a million inhabitants. However, due to the Great Plague of London during the last winter, its population was lower than before it. The Great Fire started at the bakery on Pudding Lane shortly after midnight on Sunday, 2 September, and spread rapidly west across the City of London.

How was the fire started and how it eventually stopped?

The Great Fire of London started just after midnight on Sunday 2 September 1666. It started in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane. A maid of Thomas Farriner, the King's baker, forgot to put out a fire in an oven that night and a spark from it fell onto a bundle of sticks or sacks. The bundle caught fire and in no time at all the bakery was burning! The family managed to escape, but the maid was not so lucky and died in the blaze.

At first it was thought the fire could be contained and there was little alarm beyond Pudding Lane. But London, at this time, had very narrow streets of mostly wooden buildings and the fire spread quickly. It was only when the wind began to die down that the fire came under control. The firebreaks started to be effective, stopping the fire in its tracks, and by Wednesday morning the worst was over. The city was still burning but the great fire was dying.



Chronological Understanding:

1603	1605	1620	1625	1642	1649
James I becomes King	Guy Fawkes	Pilgrim Fathers sail to America	Charles I becomes King	Civil War starts	Charles I is beheaded and England becomes a republic

What was it like at the height of the fire?

What was left of London?

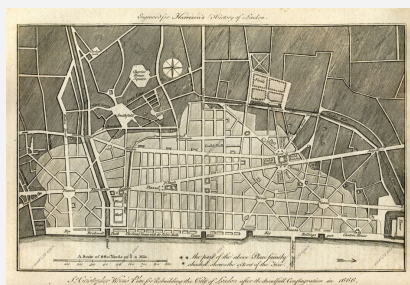
The fire raged on for four days, destroying most of the city and making thousands of people homeless. The frantic Londoners fled the city, throwing their belongings into carts, loading them into boats, or carrying them on their backs. The toll of the fire was immense. Although only 6 lives were lost, four-fifths of the city was completely destroyed. Including 13,000 houses, 89 churches, 52 company halls, St. Paul's Cathedral and The Royal Exchange. Many shops and several prisons were also lost.



What measures were taken to ensure another fire couldn't happen again?

Rebuilding the city took many years and cost a lot of money. But the new London that emerged from the ashes was a better and healthier one. The new streets were wider, to help stop fires spreading, the new buildings were of stone or brick, to stop them burning as easily, and thousands of possibly plague infected rats had been killed in the fire, perhaps helping to bring an end to the deadly disease. As part of the rebuilding, a monumental column was built near Pudding Lane to commemorate the Great Fire.

This column still stands today, and from the top of it is a wide view of modern London, a London that the fire helped to shape.



Historical vocabulary:

Subject specific vocab (T3)

Vocabulary –

In habitants- the whole number of people in a country or region

Alleyway– a narrow passageway

Plague - an infectious, terrible disease that causes illness and death

Challenge vocab (T2)

Vocabulary –

Carriage - a large vehicle with four wheels that is pulled by a horse and that carries heavy things and people

Raged- violent and uncontrolled anger

Frantic - emotionally out of control

1660	1665	1666	1685	1689
Charles II becomes King	Great Plague	Great Fire of London	James II becomes King	Glorious Revolution – end of the Stuarts