

St Bernards Primary School – History

Topic: Great Fire of London

Strand: Events Beyond Living Memory

Year 2

What should I already know?

The changes and significant events in the life of my family and myself.

Gut Fawkes lived in the 1600's – this was around the time of Samuel Pepys.

The Gunpowder Plot happened in 1605 – a few decades before the Great Fire of London.

That some events are so important that we still remember them today.

London was, and still is, the capital city of England.

What will I find out by the end of the unit?

The Great Fire was caused by several factors (wind, summer weather, hygiene, width of streets, close proximity of buildings).

After the fire there were many changes made in the rebuilding of London to prevent another fire.

The diaries of Samuel Pepys have played a major part in our understanding of the events of the Great Fire of London.

As young historians we have to be aware of the problems with sources of information relating to any historical event.

To place the Great Fire of London onto a timeline of our existing historical knowledge.

The Great Fire of London lasted just under 5 days and one-third of the city was destroyed. 100,000 people were made homeless.

The monument in London is one way we commemorate the event to this day.

The Great Fire helped to end the Plague in London by killing the rats and fleas which carried the disease.



Historical skills and enquiry

Order the main events of the Great Fire of London.

Use a variety of sources to find out about the event (paintings, diary extracts, information books, ICT).

Develop an understanding of the limitations of sources as reliable evidence.

Identify the cause of the Great Fire of London and how London changed as a result.

Understand the significance of Samuel Pepys.

To identify similarities and differences between the diary accounts of Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn regarding the Great Fire of London.

Know about aspects of life in 1666 and compare to own life identifying similarities and differences. (focus- quilting, homes and food).

Demonstrate empathy with the past by writing a diary extract from the view of an eye witness of the fire.

To place the chronology of previous learning onto the same timeline as the Great Fire of London.



Vocabulary

approximately	about; almost exactly
Black Death	a disease that affected humans after being bitten by a rodent flea carrying the disease
Bubonic Plague	same as Black Death
century	period of 100 years
chronology	the order of events in time
destroyed	end of existence of something by damaging it
diary	a book in which people keep a daily record of events and experiences
differences	the state of being different from, not like
disaster	a sudden accident or event that causes great damage
eye witness	a person who has seen something happen and can give a firsthand description of it
fire gap	a physical space that is created to prevent fire from spreading
fire hook	a tool used by firefighters to pull down buildings to stop fire spreading
handmade	made by hand rather than machines
inferno	a large fire that is dangerously out of control
past	having happened or gone by at an earlier time
present	existing at this time, current
self-sufficient	needing no outside help
similarities	likenesses
sources	something from which we can find out information about an event

Timeline

