



What Happened After the Great Fire?

Aim

- I can find out how London was rebuilt after the Great Fire

Success Criteria

- I can create a poster showing my ideas about how London could have been rebuilt after the Great fire
- I can describe the ways in which London was rebuilt

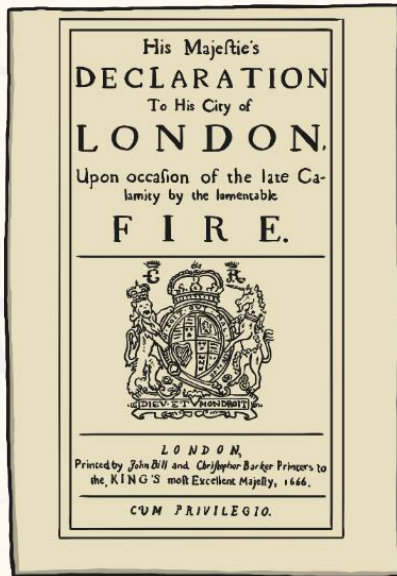
Why did the Great Fire eventually stop?

- Houses in London's streets were built very close together and made from wood. Many of these houses had been pulled down to stop the fire spreading between them.
- The wind had stopped so it wasn't spreading the fire anymore.
- In some areas, the ground was so hot it took several days before people could walk there again!
- At least 65,000 people were left homeless and without their belongings. London needed to be rebuilt.



What Happened Next?

Who made the decisions about what happened next to London?



Who do you think decided what happened to London in 1666?

King Charles II?

The Lord Mayor?

Architects?

King Charles II made a speech to the people of London; the details are this declaration from 1666. He praised the courage of the people who tried to put out the fire. He also said that he wanted to rebuild the city and make plans to ensure another disaster like this could not happen again.

How would you rebuild London?

This is a painting of London before the fire. The houses are made from wood, often leaning into the streets and are tightly packed together.



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- What was dangerous? Why?
- What could make the new houses safer?
- What could be done to make the streets safer?

Activity



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- This is a portrait of King Charles II, he made decisions about what happened after the Great Fire.
- Imagine you have lived through the Great Fire of 1666. You have lost your home and many of your belongings. You are living in a tent outside of London. What questions do you have for the King?
- Now is your chance to ask him! What do you want to happen to London now?

How would you rebuild London?

Here is an architect's idea of how he or she might design a city. Can you create labelled diagram of how you would have rebuilt London?

How will the houses be safer?

What will the houses be made from?

What will the streets look like?

How much space will there be?



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What actually happened after the Great Fire?

- In October 1666, King Charles appointed architects including Sir Christopher Wren, to start rebuilding London.
- Some streets were **widened** or **straightened**.
- All houses had to be constructed of **brick**, though some use of wood was allowed in practice. The grander houses sometimes had doorways and windows in **stone**. Some are still present in London today (see picture).
- It was made easier to get **water** from the **River Thames** to the houses close by.

Did you think of any of these ideas too?

Christopher Wren's House

This is Christopher Wren's House, designed after the Great Fire. What materials have been used to build the house?



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Christopher Wren's Designs



St. Paul's Cathedral was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren, and it still survives today!



Sir Christopher Wren also designed this Monument to remember the Great Fire. Can you guess where it is in London?

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