



These activities are designed to help key stage 1 pupils studying the Great Fire of London to explore the **WAR, PLAGUE & FIRE** gallery, with support from accompanying adults. They are for use by schools making self-directed gallery visits and those attending facilitated sessions.

Please note this gallery only accommodates one class at a time and is in great demand by school groups. Please ensure you have booked 'priority use' of the gallery for your class. You can do this by visiting [museumoflondon.org.uk/schools/enquiries-and-booking](https://museumoflondon.org.uk/schools/enquiries-and-booking).



## War, Plague & Fire gallery

KS1 activity sheets

## Using these activity sheets

KS1 Great Fire of London



The six activity sheets cover a number of themes located in different areas within the **WAR, PLAGUE & FIRE** gallery.

We also suggest a brief visit to the **MEDIEVAL LONDON** gallery to look at a model of old St Paul's Cathedral. The gallery plan and notes on the next two pages offer advice for supporting adults so that they can guide pupils around, help to find key objects and encourage discussion, which can extend beyond questions within the activity sheets.

We suggest your class explores the gallery in small groups with a supporting adult. Each group could be given different starting activity sheets, spreading pupils across the gallery to explore different topics. Individual pupils do not need to complete all six sheets, as the whole class can share and discuss their findings back at school.

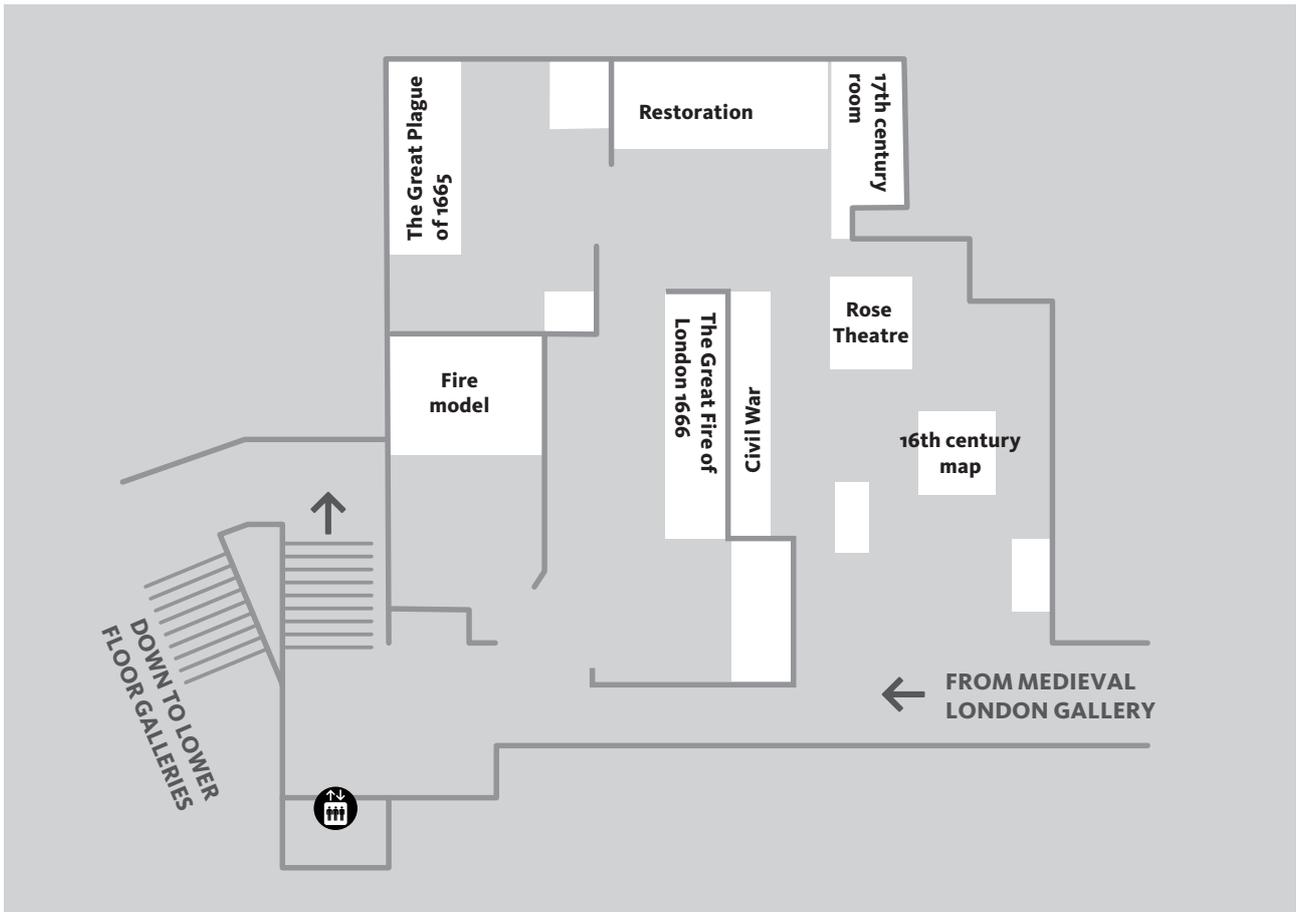
We hope you all enjoy your visit!



War, Plague & Fire gallery  
KS1 activity sheets

# Notes for adults

## KS1 Great Fire of London



### Please support your pupils by:

- reading and discussing text panels
- expanding on the questions within the activity sheets
- discussing why London was a fire risk in 1666
- discussing the artefacts on display and whether we use similar things today
- helping them to find the fire hook (look up! It is hanging from the ceiling)
- ask pupils to use their imaginations as they look at the paintings (discuss the heat, smoke and falling buildings and how people would have felt)
- please be sensitive when dealing with discussions relating to firefighting today.

This map will help you and your pupils to explore.



War, Plague & Fire gallery  
KS1 activity sheets

## Notes for adults

### KS1 Great Fire of London

We suggest a brief visit to the **MEDIEVAL LONDON** gallery before you go to the **WAR, PLAGUE & FIRE** gallery.

**FIND** the **MODEL OF OLD ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL**.

**DISCUSS** Why do pupils think the cathedral was such an important building in 1666? Explain that in 1666 most Londoners would have been Protestant and attended church. Ask pupils if they know what St Paul's Cathedral looks like today. Explain that this building was destroyed in 1666 and when St Paul's Cathedral was rebuilt with a dome instead of a spire.



Then go to the **WAR, PLAGUE & FIRE** gallery.

**FIND** the **LONDON FROM SOUTHWARK c. 1630** painting (near the Rose Theatre model).

**DISCUSS** Can pupils find St Paul's Cathedral in the painting? What is missing? The spire had been hit by lightning a few years before the Great Fire. Explain that the cathedral had wooden scaffolding around it at the time of the fire, which may be why this large stone building was destroyed by the fire.



**FIND** the **COPPERPLATE MAP** and compare the plate to the print of the map displayed on the wall nearby.

**DISCUSS** the tightly packed streets. If you search hard you might be able to find Pudding Lane in the bottom right corner near the Thames and London Bridge.



War, Plague & Fire gallery  
KS1 activity sheets

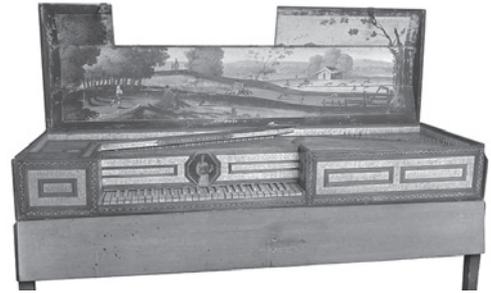
# 17th century room interior

KS1 Great Fire of London

**FIND** the **17TH CENTURY ROOM** interior.

Tick when you have found a:

- virginal (a type of keyboard instrument, like a piano)
- rocking horse
- chamber pot (potty)



**DISCUSS** what it would be like to live in a home like this. Do you think the owners would be rich or poor?

**DRAW** a picture of some of the things in this room.

**LISTEN** to the music of the virginal.

Samuel Pepys describes people rescuing virginals on boats. What other things do you think people would try to save?

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.....

.....



War, Plague & Fire gallery  
KS1 activity sheets

# London before the Great Fire

KS1 Great Fire of London

Tick when you have found:

- a model of a timber framed house
- wooden brackets shaped like people
- a portable bread oven

What were most houses made from in 1666?

.....



**DRAW** some wooden houses with upper floors larger than the ground floor and supported by wooden brackets.



War, Plague & Fire gallery  
KS1 activity sheets

# During the fire

KS1 Great Fire of London



**LOOK** at the paintings.

Tick when you have found:

- carts       horses       people in boats       barrels

**DRAW** a picture of people escaping from the fire.

A large rectangular area enclosed by a dotted line, intended for drawing a picture of people escaping from the fire.

**FIND** Edmund Berry Godfrey's tankard

Why did he have this made? Read the information and discuss.  
Do you think he was a hero who helped others?

.....  
.....  
.....



War, Plague & Fire gallery  
KS1 activity sheets

# The Great Fire film

KS1 Great Fire of London

Visit the Great Fire experience (6 minute film show)

**LISTEN** to the eyewitness accounts.

Tick the names below if you hear something they said about the Great Fire.

Samuel Pepys

Thomas Vincent

John Evelyn

**LISTEN** carefully. Can you find out:

- What the Lord Mayor did?
- How much was paid for a cart?
- How the fire was stopped?
- Where people went?

**DISCUSS** Why do you think all of these eyewitness accounts are from rich men?

If we had a diary account from a child or a woman, what different things might they have described?

After you have watched the film, **DRAW** a picture below of the things you heard described. Maybe you could draw a picture of Pepys writing in his diary or of the homeless people living in tents after the fire?



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# Firefighting

KS1 Great Fire of London

**FIND** the 1660s bucket and helmet.



What are they made from?

L \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Tick when you have found:

- a fire hook
- a squirt
- a fire engine

**DRAW** members of your group wearing the two different fire helmets.

**LOOK** at the animation to work out what is missing from the section of a fire engine on display. Draw the missing pieces (wheels, pumping arms and hose) onto the picture of the fire engine below.



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KS1 activity sheets

# After the fire

KS1 Great Fire of London

**LOOK** at the maps and read the text panels.  
Tick the correct figures below.

How many houses were destroyed?

- 3,200
- 13,200

How many people were made homeless?

- 100
- 10,000
- 100,000

**FIND** the Cowfold receipt.

How much money did this village raise?

      shillings

Have you ever collected money for a good cause?

**DRAW** a poster to persuade people to give money to help the homeless.

**FIND** the Hand in Hand fire insurance mark.

**DISCUSS** what fire insurance is.

Then complete the following:

The first fire insurance company was set up by Nicholas Barbon in

16 \_ \_

The Hand in Hand Fire Office was set up in 1696 in

T \_ \_ 's coffee house

**FIND** the Pudding Lane Plaque.



Who was incorrectly blamed for starting the fire?

The 'barbarous Papists'\* and

Robert H \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

\*Papists is a word used to describe Catholics. Some people thought the fire was started by Catholics.



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