



Why did the Great Fire of London burn down so many houses?

Aim



- **LO: I can write an explanation paragraph**

Success Criteria

- **SC: I can explain why the Great Fire of London burned down so many houses.**
- **SC: I can use images to draw conclusions**
- **SC: I can share my ideas and justify them by using the word 'because'**
- **SC: Write an explanation sharing my findings**



Starter: BOYS

There are a number of reasons it destroyed so much of London it could have been _____ or _____.

Many people think that the fact the houses were _____ caused it to destroy so many or the fact that _____.

Lots of people think _____ yet it could also have been _____.

Houses made of wood.
Gun powder.
Wind pushed it



oup work: What reasons can you see from just looking at pictures?



Now we are going to have a look at writing our own explanation sentences to answer the question. Look at these examples to give you some ideas.

Version 1

The houses and shops burned easily because they were built mainly of wood. To make matters worse, the fire leapt quickly from street to street because the houses were very close together.

Version 2

The fire spread so quickly because the wind blew sparks from blazing buildings which set fire to straw. The fire raced through the narrow streets and set fire to warehouses where they kept oil, tar and wood.

How good is this Museum of London's website's explanation?

The Great Fire of London was a huge fire that raged for three nights in September 1666 and destroyed much of medieval London. A combination of events enabled the fire to get out of control quickly and spread across the city rapidly: London had had a long dry summer, there were strong winds blowing, buildings were situated closely together and were mostly built out of wood.

Why did the fire become so big and destroy so much?

There are **several/ many/ lots of** reasons why this fire grew so big.

Firstly/ The fact that/ Remember.....

It had been a long hot summer so London was very dry.

Secondly/ Also/ More importantly....

The narrow streets and timber houses meant that it was easy for the fire to travel.

Finally/ Lastly/ Moreover.....

There was a strong wind blowing which helped feed the fire and push it from one house to the next.

Pupil answers:

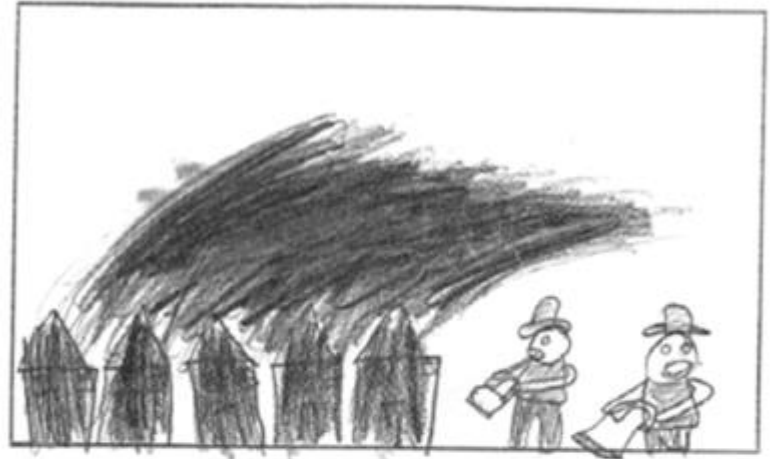
Why did the Great Fire burn down so many houses?

The Great Fire of London

The fire spread fast

because the houses were
close
to each other. And the houses
were made of wood.

The fire equipment
wasn't good like the
Squiter. the wind
was too hard. ✓



Because the houses were
so dry and it had been a
hot summer. The houses were
made of wood. The houses were
so close to gether. The wind
helped the flames by pushing
it to words the next house.

What is
good?

What can be
improved?