



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



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.

## 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:

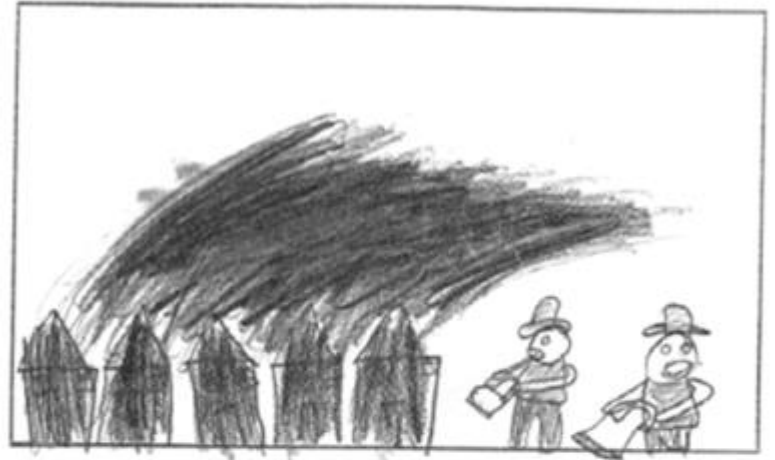
Why did the Great Fire burn down so many houses?

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  
sprinkler. 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?