



KS1 History Lesson Plan: Events Beyond Living Memory (Significant Nationally or Globally)

Year group and duration

Year group	KS1 (Year 1/2)
Duration	60 minutes
Topic	Events beyond living memory
Example focus	The Great Fire of London (you can swap for first aeroplane flight or another key event)

Learning objectives

By the end of the lesson, pupils will:

- Know the Great Fire of London happened long ago, before anyone alive today was born.
- Use time words: past, long ago, then, now, before, after.
- Describe key features: where it happened, what happened, and why it spread.
- Ask and answer simple questions using pictures and stories.
- Recognise how we remember the event through stories, pictures, and commemorations.

Key vocabulary

- past; long ago; London; fire; houses; wooden; river; bakery; Pudding Lane; Samuel Pepys; King; before; after; timeline; diary

Resources

- ☐ Simple storybook or child-friendly video about the Great Fire of London

- ☐ Large map or picture of London (then and now)
- ☐ Sequence cards showing key moments (fire starts, spreads, people escape, houses rebuilt)
- ☐ Large class timeline (with “long ago” and “today”)
- ☐ Picture sorting cards (things from 1666 vs things from today)
- ☐ Paper, crayons, pencils

Lesson sequence

Time	Phase	Teacher and pupil actions	Resources
10 minutes	Starter	• Show a picture of modern London and a picture of London during the Great Fire. • Ask: “What is the same? What is different?” • Introduce the idea that this happened a long time ago, beyond living memory.	London pictures
10–15 minutes	Main teaching	• Read or tell a simple story of the Great Fire of London. • Place 3–4 key events on the class timeline: fire starts in bakery, fire spreads, houses pulled down, city rebuilt. • Model time words: “First... then... after that... long ago... now...” • Show how we know about it: Samuel Pepys’ diary and old pictures.	Storybook or video; class timeline
25–30 minutes	Pupil activities	Activity 1: Sequencing the event	Sequence cards; picture sorting cards

		• In small groups, put picture cards of the Great Fire in order. • Retell the story using simple time words. Activity 2: Then and now • Sort pictures into “Then (1666)” and “Now”. • Explain one difference: “Then houses were made of wood. Now they are made of brick.”	
Part of pupil activities	Challenge	• Higher-attaining pupils write one or two simple sentences about why the fire spread so quickly or how London changed afterwards.	Paper, crayons, pencils
5–10 minutes	Plenary	• Ask pupils to share their sequences or one “then and now” difference. • Revisit objectives: Can we say when this happened? Can we say one	Class timeline; word bank

		important thing about the event? • Add new words or ideas to the class word bank	
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Homework

- ☐ Homework sheet: draw one picture of London during the fire and one picture of London today.
- ☐ Write or dictate one simple sentence: “Long ago there was a big fire in London. Now London looks different.”

Assessment

- Look for pupils using time words correctly.
- Check whether pupils can place the event as “long ago” beyond living memory.
- Note who can describe at least one key feature of the event and one difference between then and now.