

Practical activity ideas

Notes for the teacher - If your children need to review their learning, you can use these activities to support them.

Ink making and diary writing

The resources required for this activity include charcoal sticks, water, a pestle and mortar, a feather or sharpened stick and the Pepys shorthand activity sheet available from <https://www.fireoflondon.org.uk/the-great-fire-of-london-ks1-resources/> .

Activity: This activity gives children the opportunity to get hands on making an ink that can be dipped into to try writing in the same way as Samuel Pepys in his diaries. Using a pestle and mortar, children should crush some small sticks of charcoal and add a little water to make an ink-like writing fluid. Using either feather quills or a pre-sharpened stick, children can dip their writing implement into the ink and practise writing. The worksheet link above allows children to practise writing their name in the shorthand used by Samuel Pepys.

Stamp sequence

The resources required for this activity include the stamp set templates (see lesson resources), pencils and colouring pencils.

Activity: The children should design a set of six modern day postage stamps to remember key events of the Great Fire of London. Children can choose any six significant events to represent through imagery on the stamps, but the set of designs should be sequenced so that each representation moves chronologically from one stamp to the next.

Fire, fire, everywhere!

The resources required for this activity include internet access to the following web page <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zxcgvwx> .

Activity: This is a vocal version of a song called 'Fire, fire, everywhere!' which includes relevant animated visuals of London burning in 1666. Children can watch the song, join in and learn it if they wish.

