

# Making a Great Fire of London frieze

## Objectives

- To find out about houses in London at the time of the Great Fire.
- To describe key features of houses at this time.
- To produce pictures and models of 17th-century houses.

## Vocabulary

timber, wood, thatch, window, door, chimney

## Resources

Pictures, video material and reference books relating to 17th-century houses; art and craft materials, including paper and card of different colours, glue and paint.



## Links

NC Design and technology KS1: (2a) to select tools, techniques and materials for making their product from a range suggested by the teacher; (2d) to assemble, join and combine materials and components. NC Art and design KS1: (2b) to try out tools and techniques.

## Background

The Great Fire of London topic provides many possibilities for creative, practical work involving art and design. It is important to remember, however, that these activities should be underpinned by historical understanding. A key part of this lesson, for example, involves researching what 17th-century homes were like, so that their pictures and models have some historical accuracy.

## Introduction

- Show pictures of London at the time of the fire in which timber framed buildings can be seen. Ask the children to note the key features of 17th-century buildings, such as their wooden construction, thatched roofs and the way they were built close together.
- Share the learning objectives with the children, emphasising that they will be working in small groups to produce large pictures of houses for a Great Fire of London frieze.

## Main teaching activity

- Use pictures to look in detail at 17th-century houses in London. Cross-section drawings can be useful to help children understand how they were built with a wooden frame and plaster infill.
- Demonstrate how they can produce their own houses by drawing the outline shape on a large piece of cream paper. The timber framing can be added with strips of brown paper. Use black paper for doors and window frames, and straw-coloured paper for the roofs.
- Split the class into small groups and start them on the task. Provide visual references to guide them.
- An alternative for some groups might be to produce 3D models of houses, using boxes for the main shape, which could provide a foreground to the main frieze.

## Plenary

- Review what the children have achieved by looking at their pictures, highlighting significant features
- Ask the children what else needs to be included in their frieze to make it look like the Great Fire of London. Encourage references to flames, people, and boats on the River Thames. These could all be added using appropriate materials, such as red and yellow paper foil for the flames.

## Differentiation

Additional adult support is useful for this practical activity. More able children could be set further tasks to create other parts of the frieze.