

# THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON 1666

A 'Performance Package' for infants (suggested age range 6+)



The material in this package is designed to help teachers fulfill the learning objectives of QCA History Year 2 Unit 5 'How do we know about the Great Fire of London?'

## Contents

A script for a performance by pupils.

### The songs on CD

There are four songs on the CD. Two songs, 'I am a Rat' and 'The Plague' illustrate events leading up to the fire.

The third song is a general treatment of the subject and the events of the years 1665 – 6. The fourth song deals with Christopher Wren and the rebuilding of London. All songs come in 4 formats: - 1) I sing with piano accompaniment 2) I sing with instrumental accompaniment 3) piano only 4) instruments only.



# The Great Fire of London

## For Infants

### Cast List

- 20 'speakers',
- King Charles,
- James, Duke of York (the King's brother)
- Samuel Pepys,
- Thomas Farynor - the king's baker,
- A worker at the bakery,
- Thomas Bloodworth, the Lord Mayor of London
- Sir Christopher Wren, Architect.

You may have to re-allocate parts depending on the number of children taking part.

Before you start:

*You have to decide how much costume you want to put in. One of the QCA learning outcomes for this unit says: - "describe the hairstyle and clothes of Charles II and Samuel Pepys"*



## The Great Fire of London

SPEAKER 1	We had a very hot summer in London in 1665
SPEAKER 2	Everywhere you went, the smell was dreadful!
SPEAKER 3	The trouble was, we had nowhere to put our rubbish, so it all went out of the window and on to the street
SPEAKER 4	We had no toilets either
SPEAKER 3	So it all went out of the window and on to the street
SPEAKER 2	So everywhere you went, the smell was dreadful
SPEAKER 4	And the rats. There were so many rats

## Song: I am a rat

SPEAKER 5	Then people started getting ill
SPEAKER 6	Really ill.
SPEAKER 7	So ill that they died
SPEAKER 8	Lots of people died – very quickly.
SPEAKER 5	It was mostly poor people that died.
SPEAKER 6	The King and rich people moved out of London because they were scared they'd catch the deadly disease.
SPEAKER 7	If poor people became ill, they were locked in their houses.
SPEAKER 8	There were not many doctors in London....
SPEAKER 5	....because the rich people had moved out, because they were scared they'd catch the deadly disease.
SPEAKER 6	The disease was called the plague. Some called it the black death

## Song: The plague

SPEAKER 9	So in 1666, we were hoping for better luck.
SPEAKER 10	People were still dying from the black death.



KING CHARLES	I am King Charles. Of course I left London, but I had to. It wasn't safe for me in London. But I came back, in February 1666.
SPEAKER 9	And we had another hot dry summer.
SPEAKER 10	And the wind was always blowing from the east
KING CHARLES	Can I just say, I warned the Lord Mayor. I told him. As long ago as April last year. I told him that the city was an accident waiting to happen. The streets were so dirty and narrow; the houses were so close to each other.....
SPEAKER 11	In September an accident did happen.
THOMAS FARYNOR	It wasn't my fault.
SPEAKER 12	At 2 o'clock in the morning of September the second, a workman at the King's baker in Pudding Lane smelled smoke.
WORKER	I did, that was me. To make bread see, you need hot ovens. That means lighting fires and keeping 'em hot while the bread is baking. And, then, when all the baking's done, you put the fire out
THOMAS FARYNOR	And that is what I did. I am Thomas Farynor, the king's baker. I live and work in Pudding Lane. And that night, like every night, I made sure the oven fires were out, before I went to bed.
WORKER	Well, all I know is, I sleep downstairs, in the bakery, and I smelled smoke, which I shouldn't have done, at that time of night.
SPEAKER 11	So what did you do?
WORKER	I ran upstairs and woke up the master and his family.
SPEAKER 12	So what did they do?
WORKER	They scarpered. We all did! Over the roofs and away. One poor maid wouldn't come with us. Too frightened, she said.
SPEAKER 11	What happened to her?
WORKER	What do you think? Burnt to a cinder I'm afraid.
SPEAKER 12	The fire spread very quickly
SPEAKER 13	Not everybody took it very seriously
THOMAS BLOODWORTH	I know, I know, you are talking about me. I, Thomas Bloodworth, Lord Mayor of London, was woken in the middle of the night. We'd had fires before. How was I to know this was different?



The Great Fire of London - an education package from Robert Smith  
[www.plays4kidz.co.uk](http://www.plays4kidz.co.uk)

