

Two Great Fire accounts: origin, date and purpose

Audience: Year 6 pupils

These are classroom summaries, not quotations. Use only the source details and summaries supplied here.

Enquiry

How do the source forms and summaries shape what we can learn about the Great Fire response?

Source A: Samuel Pepys's private diary

Who: Samuel Pepys, a senior Navy Office official. Date: 2 September 1666. Form: private diary, written in shorthand and first published in 1825. The short classroom summary describes people moving belongings and Pepys asking the King for orders to pull down houses. A specific intended reader is not stated.

Source B: London Gazette

Form: printed public report approved by royal officials. Published by authority from 3 to 10 September 1666; this issue has the dateline Whitehall, 8 September. The short classroom summary says the report credits the King and Duke of York with orders and describes the fire spreading. A specific intended reader is not stated.

Evaluate the summaries

1. Who made Source A, when, and what type of source is it?
2. What dates and publication details are supplied for Source B?
3. Which statements above come directly from the supplied source metadata?
4. What might a private diary or an official public report be used to record? Label your answer as an inference.
5. Write one value and one limitation of each short summary. Do not evaluate wording because exact source wording is not supplied.

Judgement: "The summary of Source ___ is useful for learning ___ because ___. It cannot show ___."