



Great Fire of London

Guided Portrait Discussions

These portrait discussions give questions for a teacher to ask the children, with possible suggested answers in brackets. It may be necessary for the teacher to probe a bit further with supplementary questions and to add little bits of information to arrive at the full meaning.

Sir Christopher Wren by Sir Godfrey Kneller, 1711, NPG 113

Does he look old or young in this portrait?

(Old – he is nearly eighty years old)

Does his hair look like an old person's hair?

(No, it is not grey or white, and it is very long and curly)

If it's not his own hair what do you think he is wearing on his head?

(A wig – all these three portraits show men in wigs)

What is on the table under his right hand?

(A plan of a building he has designed – the new St Paul's Cathedral built after the Fire of London)

Why has he chosen this to show in his portrait?

(It is his building that he is most proud of – use this as a starting point for the children to discuss what they have made or done that they are the most proud of)