



# Great Fire of London

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## 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)