



# 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.

**Elizabeth Pepys by James Thomson, 1828 after John Hayls, 1666, NPG D5507**

***How is this portrait different from the other ones you have been looking at?***

(In black and white, not a painting but copied from a painting and then printed on paper)

***Do you think that Elizabeth is pretty?***

(Pepys thought she was - they were very fond of each other even though they had quite a few arguments)

***This picture was painted as a pair to Samuel Pepys's portrait, but sadly Elizabeth's painting was destroyed many years ago - why is it important to look after things from the past?***

(Think about how useful all the things in this website have been in helping you find out about the Fire of London)

***We know a bit about what Elizabeth Pepys looked like from this print, but not the colours because the painting hasn't survived - could you help by choosing some good colours and doing a portrait of her?***

(Discuss good colours to use - maybe look at the colours in the other paintings, especially Charles II's clothes. Try to avoid colours that were not available then - lime green, anything fluorescent, very bright purples and so on)