

## What Was London Like Before the Great Fire? by Kate Ruttle

### Three cities

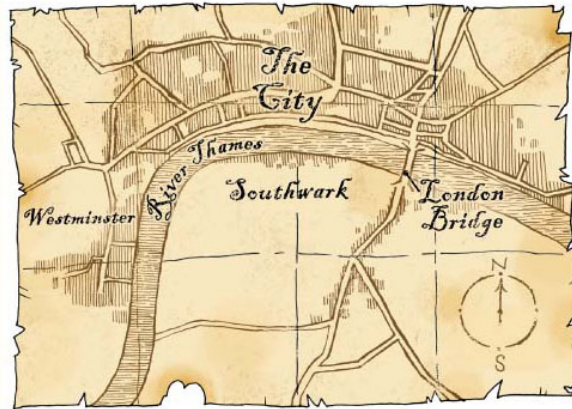
In the 1660s, London was a big and rich city. In fact it was three cities. The king and his rich friends lived in the city of Westminster. Parliament was in Westminster too.

Across the river Thames was the city of Southwark. Lots of poor people lived there. Southwark was noisy and very smelly. People threw all their rubbish and waste into the streets.

If you walked across London Bridge from Southwark, you would get to the City of London. This was where merchants did their trading.

### The river Thames

The river Thames was a busy river. There were no trains or lorries, so everything was carried by boats and ships. One visitor to the city said that there were 2000 boats on the river at any time of the day or night. The ships brought goods and people from all around the world.



<b>Name:</b>	<b>Class:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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1 In the 1660s, who lived in Westminster?

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1b  
  
 1 mark

2 Choose **three** facts that were true about Southwark.

Lots of poor people lived there.

Parliament was there.

It was on the river Thames.

It was very noisy.

People threw their waste into the street.

1b  
  
 1 mark

3 “*This was where the merchants did their trading.*”  
 What does the word “*merchants*” mean? Choose **one**.

people who lived near the king

people who worked to make things

people who bought and sold things

people who did no work

1a  
  
 1 mark

4 What information does the second heading introduce?

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1c  
  
 1 mark

5 Why was the river Thames busier in the 1660s than it is now?

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1d  
  
 1 mark

6 Do you think it would have been interesting to be beside the Thames in the 1660s?  
 Explain your answer.

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1d  
  
 2 marks