

**PRE AND POST ACTIVITY IDEAS** for teachers to consider when planning class work linked to a Wren300 Learning Day.

## PRE-VISIT

Before your visit we recommend you:

### 1. Cover the story of the Great Fire of London

We recommend the following resource to introduce key facts about the Great Fire of London: [www.fireoflondon.org.uk](http://www.fireoflondon.org.uk)

This website was created by the Museum of London in partnership with other trustworthy contributors. It can be used either by the whole class on an interactive whiteboard, or by pupils individually or in pairs. It includes:

- a child-friendly game, which tells the story of the Fire day by day, linked to historic objects and documents.
- a Minecraft experience, which uses maps to offer an immersive experience, allowing players to explore causes, help fight the fire, and try rebuilding the city.

### 2. Introduce key words using our Word Mat

Introduce and discuss the meanings of the key words. This can also be used after the visit, if setting a writing task. [The Word Mat is available for download from our online Education Resources page.](#)

Give copies of the Word Mat to pupils and ask them to discuss the pictures first. What do they think the pictures show? Can they sound out or guess any of the new words? Explain that during their visit they will learn more about Christopher Wren's interest in both 'architecture' and 'astronomy'.

Please do not introduce your pupils to too much detail about the life of Sir Christopher Wren

before your visit. This is because sessions involve interactive storytelling about his life. They work better if some details of his life story are new to the pupils. We also provide [The Life of Sir Christopher Wren](#) for you to download to use with your pupils after their visit.

## DURING YOUR VISIT

**Remember to take photos during your visit, as a source for post-visit activities.**

## POST-VISIT

Here are some activities you may like to set your pupils after the visit to cement learning and encourage pupil's creative responses to their Wren300 Learning Day.

### 1. Recap on the visit – using photos

Show photos from your visit on the white board. Explain that you want your class to help you create a class book or online blog about the visit – select a few favourite images which provide an overview of the day together. Divide into groups to decide how to describe each part of the day and then compile for your school website or as a booklet.

### 2. Re-tell the story of Sir Christopher Wren (Drama, speaking & listening)

Discuss what your class remembers of Christopher Wren's life. Do they think he had a happy and successful life? Can they remember any sad times in his life? (He lived through War, Plague and Fire! He was married twice, but both wives died quite young). Use [The Life of Sir Christopher Wren](#) to recap and check pupils remember the key parts of the story.

Then ask pupils to work in groups to create freeze frames or act out different scenes from the story. This could be put together for an assembly presentation.

### 3. Rhymes and poetry

Read through the rhymes which were used in our storytelling (see below).

Put these rhymes and the Word Mats out for children to refer to.

Then ask children to make up their own rhymes, poetry or songs about the Great Fire of London, Christopher Wren, his team of workers, or his architecture. They could also write about the modern city they visited, perhaps comparing old and new.

#### Rhymes used in our storytelling session

**Christopher Wren, Christopher Wren.  
Always asking questions, what where, why,  
and when?**

**Christopher Wren, Christopher Wren.  
An architect a builder and a genius with  
his pen.**

**From east to west across the sky...  
You can tell the time from where the  
shadows lie.**

(This rhyme is about the sun's shadow on a sundial)

**Oh! How can I build such beauty, and take  
these ideas home?**

**To design a new cathedral, with columns  
and a dome.**

(This rhyme is about Wren being inspired by Classical architecture he saw in Paris)

**Let's build London, Let's build London,  
with stone and brick, stone, and brick  
Build St Paul's Cathedral, build St Paul's  
Cathedral**

**Build it quick, build it quick!**

**Take the measure, Take the measure  
Saw the wood, saw the wood.**

**Do the maths and Science, Do the maths  
and science.**

**Chip the stone, build a dome.**

(This rhyme is about all the different people who worked with Wren to build the city churches and other buildings he designed)

### 4. Building (Design & technology)

Extend the building activity from the Learning Day by discussing what your class thought was successful about their designs, and what they would have liked to create. Wren said good architecture must be *useful, strong and beautiful*. Look at the City of London skyline and discuss what architecture they find most beautiful, and what the different buildings are used for. Consider what buildings a city needs. Then, pupils could work individually or in pairs, in a medium of their choice, (such as pre-made construction blocks, cardboard, clay, plasticine) to make a building, with which to create a city-scape for your classroom.

## RESOURCES

We have a selection of useful resources and links for you to use with your class available from our [Education portal](#).



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