

WHAT WAS LONDON LIKE BEFORE THE GREAT FIRE?

by Kate Ruttle

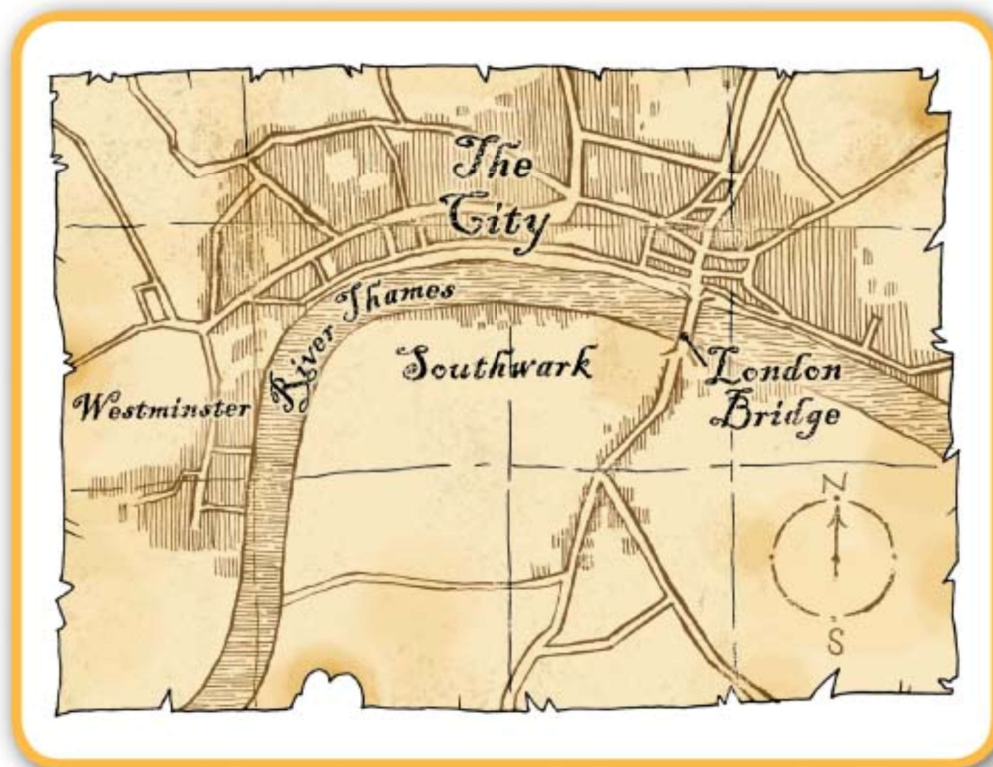


Three cities

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.

