

Sir Christopher Wren

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1 "In sixteen hundred and sixty-six London burned like rotten sticks."

2 In 1666 there was a big fire in London. It is always called "the Great Fire." It was one of the worst fires ever.

3 The Great Fire lasted three days. It swept across London. It burned houses. It burned churches. It burned all the buildings in its path. Not many lives were lost. But London had to be rebuilt.

4 A man named Christopher Wren helped rebuild London. Many of his buildings are still standing. They are some of the finest buildings in the world.

5 Christopher Wren started with St. Paul's Cathedral. This had been a fine old church, but it had been ruined by the fire. Wren set out to rebuild it.

6 First he drew a picture. It showed how he would make the new church look. He took the picture to the men who governed London. But they didn't like it. So he drew another. They didn't like that one either.

7 So Wren went on drawing. He kept at it for years! At last he drew a picture that the men liked. "That's

good," they said. "The new St. Paul's can look like that."

8 Wren was surprised. This picture was almost like his first one!

9 Wren began to build. Many years passed before he was through. There were problems. Sometimes the money would run out. The men who governed London kept changing their minds. Wren had to keep changing his plans to suit them.

10 At last St. Paul's was done. It was a beautiful church. It still is. People come from all over the world to see it.

11 After that, Christopher Wren built many other churches. He built more than fifty in London. The king of England liked Wren's work. He made Wren a knight. Now people called him *Sir* Christopher Wren. When Christopher Wren died, he was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral.

12 Sir Christopher Wren was one of England's great builders. The English people treasure his memory. It would be hard for them to forget him. The spires of his many churches reach into the sky above London.

The London skyline seems to say, "Sir Christopher Wren was here."



COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 Sir Christopher Wren is remembered because he
 - a** made beautiful buildings.
 - b** drew wonderful pictures.
 - c** died in "the Great Fire."
- 2 You know that the men who governed London were hard to please because they
 - a** had lots of money.
 - b** disliked many of Wren's drawings.
 - c** weren't yet knights.
- 3 The words *London skyline* mean
 - a** a line in the sky over the city of London.
 - b** a church that Wren built.
 - c** the buildings of London as seen against the sky.

- 4 Wren was probably buried in St. Paul's Cathedral because
 - a** it was his best work.
 - b** all the people of London are buried there.
 - c** there was nowhere else to bury him.
- 5 Wren would probably recognize London today because
 - a** the men who governed London are still there.
 - b** the burned buildings are still there.
 - c** many places he built are still standing.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 continued; went on for (3)
- 2 moved quickly (3)
- 3 destroyed; damaged beyond repair (5)
- 4 ruled; managed; controlled (6)
- 5 ideas for how to do something (9)
- 6 please; satisfy (9)
- 7 value; hold dear (12)
- 8 pointed steeples or towers (12)



LEARN ABOUT WORDS (continued)

- C** Homographs are two (or more) words that are spelled the same but have different meanings and origins. The word's meaning will depend on how it is used.

My dad is a football *fan*.

He keeps cool with an electric *fan*.

Look at each word in **bold type**.

Note the paragraph number. Look

back at the paragraph. Which meaning does the word have there? Write *a* or *b*.

9 drawing (7)

a making pictures

b pulling; hauling

10 through (9)

a from one end to another

b finished

THINK ABOUT IT

- D** An analogy shows how two things are related.

Air is to sky as water is to sea.

Read the sentences. Which word in the box completes each analogy? Write the word.

fine rule burn cathedral rebuild

- 1** House is to palace as church is to _____.
- 2** Wreck is to repair as ruin is to _____.
- 3** Pretty is to lovely as good is to _____.
- 4** Wind is to blow as fire is to _____.
- 5** Speak is to talk as govern is to _____.

- E** A dictionary is a list of words in alphabetical order. The top of each dictionary page has two words printed in large, heavy type. These words are called guide words. They are the first and last words on the page. By thinking about whether the word you are hunting for fits between the guide words, you can find the word quickly.

Read the pair of guide words. Would each word below appear on the same page as the guide words? Write *Yes* or *No*.

built/button

6 burned

7 building

8 but

9 beautiful

10 buried