

## Sid the Swan and the Great Fire of London

### A Fictional Story



Sid was a large swan with a really good sense of smell. All day, he would paddle along the river Thames sniffing out water plants to snack on. When he found them, he would close his eyes and dip underwater to grab their tasty roots and stems.

Every evening, Sid went to sleep on a quiet bank near London Bridge with his friends.

One morning, Sid woke especially early. It was still dark but he could smell something strange in the air.

"Wake up!" he hissed.

"Whatever is the matter, old chap?" Father Goose said with a sleepy honk.

"There's a strange smell," Sid replied.

The duck twins paddled up beside him. "That's smoke you can smell," they both quacked at once. "There must be a fire!"

Sid opened up his wings.

"What are you doing?" the duck twins questioned.

"I have to do something," Sid said, as he pulled himself into the air.

"But it's dark," Mother Goose shouted. "You won't be able to see!"

"I've got my nose to guide me!" Sid called down, taking in a great big sniff. He twisted his body and sped towards where the smoky smell was coming from.

## Sid the Swan and The Great Fire of London

Sid was soon above the London houses. Below was a bakery where humans would sometimes throw old loaves out for him to eat. Sid could see flames coming from the bakery.

“Honk! Hiss! Honk!” he cried as loudly as he could, flying between the houses.

A man came running out of his house. “Fire!” he yelled.

Having warned the humans, Sid flew back to his friends. “Come on,” he said, “it’s not safe to stay here!”

With the sound of people shouting in the background, Sid guided his friends to safety. “Thank goodness for my nose!” he sighed, as he glided through the dark London sky.



# Questions

1. What did Sid do with the water plants? Tick **one**.

- grab their tasty roots and stems
- eat them by London Bridge
- paddle along with them

2. Why did Sid wake especially early?

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3. Why was Mother Goose worried when Sid flew off?

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4. What do you think Sid's friends thought about him at the end of the story?

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5. Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

	Sid guided his friends to safety.
<b>1</b>	Sid swam underwater.
	Sid sped towards the bakery.
	Sid was asleep.
	Sid smelt something strange.

6. Explain what the man may have thought when Sid woke him up. Give two ideas in your answer.

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# Answers

1. What did Sid do with the water plants? Tick **one**.

- grab their tasty roots and stems**
- eat them by London Bridge
- paddle along with them

2. Why did Sid wake especially early?

**Sid woke up especially early because he smelt something strange.**

3. Why was Mother Goose worried when Sid flew off?

**Mother Goose was worried because she thought Sid wouldn't be able to see when flying in the dark.**

4. What do you think Sid's friends thought about him at the end of the story?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Sid's friends would have been feeling grateful and proud of Sid for saving them.**

5. Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

<b>5</b>	Sid guided his friends to safety.
<b>1</b>	Sid swam underwater.
<b>4</b>	Sid sped towards the bakery.
<b>2</b>	Sid was asleep.
<b>3</b>	Sid smelt something strange.

6. Explain what the man may have thought when Sid woke him up. Give two ideas in your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The man would have been alarmed by Sid's honks and then shocked and scared that the bakery was on fire.**