Read the article and check your ideas from Exercise 1. Match the four photos A–D to paragraphs 1–4.

Choose the correct word to complete the sentences about the Great Fire of London.

1 London is *bigger* / *smaller* today than it was in the 17th century.
2 The fire started in a bread shop early on *Saturday morning* / *Sunday morning*.
3 A lot of people lived in houses made of *wood* / *stone*.
4 The houses burned *quickly* / *slowly*.
5 5th September was the *first* / *last* day of the fire.
6 The Tower of London is *more than* / *less than* 350 years old.
7 St Paul's Cathedral is a(n) *new* / *old* stone building.

The Great Fire

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1 Saturday 1st September 1666 was a normal day in London. The city was smaller than it is today, but the little shops were busy and there were lots of people in the streets.

2 Just after midnight that night, something happened in a bread shop in Pudding Lane to change everything. A small fire started in the building. Most people lived in small houses in those days. These houses were very close to each other. The floors at the bottom of the houses were made of stone, but the rest of the houses were made of wood. The fire moved first to the houses and shops on each side of the bread shop, jumping from roof to roof. The buildings started to burn, and the fire travelled quickly from house to house, from shop to shop and from street to street. The fire moved very fast through the buildings and burned for three days, from Sunday 2nd until Wednesday 5th September.

3 After the fire, the buildings made of wood were not there anymore, but many churches and the famous castle, the Tower of London, were still there because they were made of stone.

4 So the people of London decided to make new buildings of stone. You can still see many of those stone buildings from after the fire in London today. One of the most famous is a church. It's called St Paul's Cathedral.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Look at the photos. What do you think happened? Choose words from the box. Then read the article and check your answers.

a fire rain a storm an earthquake*

_____

The Great Fire of San Francisco

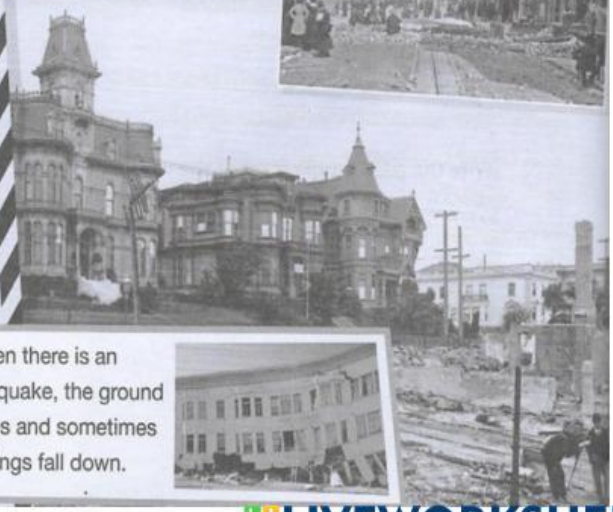
On 18th April 1906, there was an earthquake in the city of San Francisco. It was 5 o'clock in the morning and there weren't many people in the streets; most people were in bed. But it was a very big earthquake and people felt it in Los Angeles, more than 600 km from San Francisco. It destroyed many buildings.

But soon there was another problem. Many small fires started after the earthquake. At that time in San Francisco, the city was crowded and most old houses were made of wood. The fires moved quickly from building to building and from street to street. People didn't have water to stop the fire, and soon buildings all over the city were on fire.

The city burned for four days and it destroyed 28,000 buildings in the city. Around 250,000 people lost their homes and about 3,000 people died. After the fire, the people built a new city, with big streets and new houses.







* When there is an earthquake, the ground moves and sometimes buildings fall down.

2 Read the article again. Are the sentences right (✓) or wrong (✗)?

1 The San Francisco fire happened in winter. _____
2 When the earthquake happened, a lot of people were at home. _____
3 The earthquake wasn't big. _____
4 The fires burned quickly. _____
5 People saved many buildings in the city. _____
6 28,000 people died. _____
7 People built the city again after the fire. _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS