

Check The Claims

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Identify the claims made by the author. Compare those claims to actual historical facts or data provided in the reference section. Decide whether the claims are accurate, exaggerated, or misleading. Answer the reflection questions to explain how comparing text to reality changes your understanding.

Passage (Opinion-Style Excerpt):

The Great Fire of London in 1666 destroyed nearly the entire city and left hundreds of thousands dead. The fire raged for months, and London never truly recovered, remaining in ruins for decades afterward.

Reference Facts:

- The fire lasted from **September 2 to September 6, 1666** (four days).
- It destroyed about **13,000 houses and 87 churches**, roughly 80% of the old city.
- **Around 70,000-80,000 people** were left homeless.
- **Fewer than 10 people are recorded as having died.**
- London was rebuilt within a few years, with new city planning and fire regulations.

1. What claims does the author make in the passage?
2. Compare each claim to the historical facts. Label them as **accurate, exaggerated, or false.**
3. Why do you think the author exaggerated or misstated some facts?
4. How does checking against real data change the way you understand this event?
5. Why is it important to test information from a text against reality?