

Great Fire of London

Year Two - Term 1



Timeline/Key Information

Sun 2nd September 1666	<p>1:30am - The fire started in Thomas Farriner's bakery in Pudding Lane. The fire most likely came from the oven.</p> <p>3am – The Lord Mayor looked at the fire. He decided it was not bad and went back to bed.</p> <p>7am – The fire had spread rapidly as buildings were crowded and made of wood. Samuel Pepys woke to find that 300 houses had already burnt down.</p> <p>11am – The King ordered the Mayor to start pulling down of houses after talking to Samuel Pepys.</p> <p>3pm – The King travelled down the River Thames to observe the fire.</p>
Mon 3rd September 1666	<p>There was no official fire service/brigade. The general public tried to put the fire out by using leather buckets and water squirts. They pulled down houses with fire hooks. They hoped to create fire breaks.</p> <p>12pm: The fire can be seen 60 miles away.</p>
Tues 4th September 1666	<p>The fire reached its peak. It spread from Temple (in the west) to the Tower of London (in the east). Gun powder was used to blow up houses to stop the fire reaching The Tower. St Paul's Cathedral burnt down.</p> <p>11pm – The wind began to die down.</p>
Wed 5th September 1666	<p>The wind changed direction, blowing the fire towards the River Thames. The fire started to burn more slowly.</p>
Thu 6th September 1666	<p>The fire was finally put out. Many people were left homeless. Much of London needed to be rebuilt.</p>



Key People/Places

Thomas Farriner		Owned the baker where an ember from one of ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread.
Samuel Pepys		A famous man who wrote a personal diary about the GfOL. He reported the fire to the King.
King Charles II		The male ruler of England in 1666. After the fire he made a decree that houses must be built further apart and built from stone not timber.
Thomas Bludworth		The Lord Mayor of London. An important leader in a town/city.
London		Capital city of England and UK.
River Thames		Many people used boats to escape the fire.
St Paul's Cathedral		A Christian building razed to the ground in the fire. Rebuilt after the fire using designs by Sir Christopher Wren.
Tower of London		Where the King lived in 1666.
Tower Bridge		The only crossing of the River Thames in the city.



Vocabulary

Bakery	A shop where bread and cakes are made and sold.
Fire brigade	A group of people whose job it is to put out fires.
Diary	A book that people write. A personal record of life's events.
Eye-witness	A person who has seen something and can describe it.
Embers	Small pieces of glowing coal or wood.
Fire hooks	Giant hooks used to pull down houses.
Fire break	A gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings.
Flammable	When something burns easily.
Oven	A place where food is cooked.
Leather bucket	Leather is a material that buckets were made from before plastic was invented.

Key Questions

When and where did the fire start? Pudding Lane.	How did the fire stop? The fire burned for 4 days. When the wind died down and changed direction the fire could be controlled.
Why did the fire spread? It hadn't rained for months so it was very dry. Buildings made of wood and too close together.	How many people died? 6 people died. Thomas Farriner's maid was the first.
How did they fight the fire? Using equipment and gunpowder.	What happened after the fire? 13,200 houses were destroyed and 70,000 people left homeless. Many people left London.

Key Skills

Mapwork	Use maps to locate London/Pudding lane. Compare maps of the same area in different time periods.
Research	Using non-fiction texts to understand events.
Ordering chronologically	Ordering dates on a simple timeline.