

Why was The Great Fire of London such a significant event in British history?

What should I already know?

- The way people lived in the past is different from how we live today.
- Some events in the past caused changes to happen.

How do we know what happened and what London was like at the time of the fire?

- A man called Samuel Pepys wrote about what happened in his diary.
- Maps created at the time show us what London looked like before and after the fire.
- The plans King Charles II made to rebuild London were written down.

Key Vocabulary and definitions

bakery	A place where bread and cakes are made
narrow	thin, not wide
timber	wood that is used for building
pitch	A sticky, black kind of paste used to cover things, like roofs to make them waterproof.
flammable	Something that can catch fire easily
thatch	Dry grass or straw used to make a roof
gunpowder	A powder used to make explosions or fireworks.
firebreak	A gap where there is nothing to burn that stops a fire from spreading.
fire hook	A tool with a long handle and a hook used to pull down burning buildings or move things in a fire.
water squirts	Small tools that spray water to help put out fires.
diary	A book where you write down things that happen each day, like thoughts or events.

Key knowledge

- Before the fire, London streets were narrow and houses were built very close together out of flammable materials.
- The bakery where the fire started was on Pudding Lane and was owned by Thomas Farriner.

Samuel Pepys

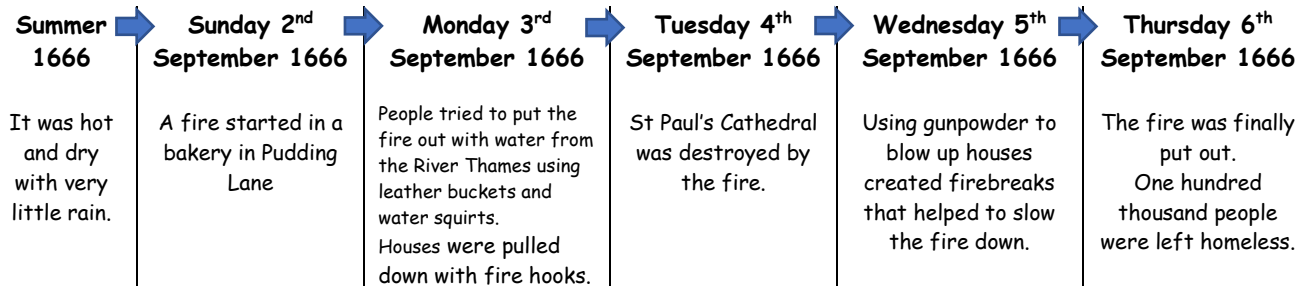


King Charles II



How it might have looked as the fire burned.

Timeline of the start and spread of the Great Fire of London in 1666:



Map showing how the fire spread:

