

Year 2 - Spring 1 - History - The Great Fire of London

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 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.

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.

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

Summer I

It was hot

and dry

with very

little rain.

Sunday 2nd September 1666

A fire started in a bakery in Pudding Lane

Monday 3rd | September 1666

People tried to put the fire out with water from the River Thames using leather buckets and water squirts.
Houses were pulled down with fire hooks.

Tuesday 4th ■ September 1666

St Paul's Cathedral was destroyed by the fire.

Wednesday 5th September 1666

Using gunpowder to blow up houses created firebreaks that helped to slow the fire down.

Thursday 6th September 1666

The fire was finally put out.
One hundred thousand people were left homeless.

Map showing how the fire spread:

