

Year 1/2 The Great Fire of London

The Great Fire of London was a major fire that swept through London from Sunday 2nd September to Thursday 6th September 1666.

History Detectives:
How do we know about the
Fire?

Key Questions

HOW DID THE FIRE START?	The fire started around 1am in Thomas Farrier's bakery on Pudding lane.
WHY DID THE FIRE SPREAD SO QUICKLY?	It had been a long, dry summer with little rain so the city was dry. This is called a drought . Most houses were made of wood and built very close - a strong wind helped to blow the fire across them.
WHO PUT THE FIRE OUT?	There was no fire brigade in London at the time, so Londoners had to try and put out the fire themselves, helped by soldiers. They used leather buckets , water squirts , and fire hooks , to pull buildings down.
WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS?	13,200 houses were destroyed by the fire and 70,000 people were left homeless. Many left London to live elsewhere and some slept in tents. The city began to be rebuilt, (King Charles gave Christopher Wren control of this) but this took around 50 years to rebuild.
HOW DO WE KNOW ABOUT ALL OF THIS?	We know about what happened at the time because people wrote about it in newspapers and in letters (Samuel Pepys' diary). Also, artists who were around at the time painted pictures of the fire as they remembered it.

Key Vocabulary

Architect	Someone who designs a building
Diary	A personal record of life's events
Drought	A long period of time when it doesn't rain
Eyewitness	Someone who sees an event happening
Flammable	When something burns easily
Fire Hook	Giant hooks used to pull down houses
Monument	Usually a statue built to help remember something or someone

Did you know?

Houses were mostly rebuilt using brick and built further apart. Streets were widened.

Did you know?

From the 3rd day, gunpowder was used to bring down houses quicker.

Key People

Samuel Pepys



Samuel Pepys was a **diary** writer. He was in the city during the fire and was an **eyewitness**. He wrote in his diary about the fire.

King Charles II



Charles II was the King of England at the time of the fire. He helped put the fire out and feed the homeless.

Sir Christopher Wren



Sir Christopher Wren was one of the best **architect** at the time of the Great Fire. He re-built 52 of the churches that were destroyed by the fire. He redesigned St Paul's cathedral.

Timeline of Events

Sunday 2 nd September 1666 Morning	Monday 3 rd September	Tuesday 4 th September	Wednesday 5 th September	Thursday 6 th September
A fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. An ember from the bakery ignited some wood, The fire soon spread towards other buildings. A man called Samuel Pepys started writing down the events in his diary.	Fire-fighters try to tackle the fire but it spreads quickly. People carry their possessions to safety using a horse and cart of boats across the Thames. The fire spread very close to the Tower of London.	Buildings are pulled down to stop the fire from spreading and water was thrown using leather buckets and water squirts. This did not stop the fire and so it continued to spread. St.Paul's Cathedral was destroyed.	The fire starts to move more slowly as the wind dies down.	Because the wind dies down and many houses were pulled down, the fire is finally put out. It is recorded that six people died but thousands of people are left homeless.
 	 			

