

Year 2:
HISTORY
Knowledge
organiser: The
Great Fire of
London

Monday 3rd September 1666
The fire gets very close to the Tower of London.

Tuesday 4th September 1666
St Paul's Cathedral is destroyed by the fire.

Timeline of Events

Sunday 2nd September 1666
The fire starts at 1 a.m.
Mid-morning: Samuel Pepys starts to write about the fire in his **diary**.

Wednesday 5th September 1666
The wind dies down and the fire spreads more slowly.

Thursday 6th September 1666
The fire is finally put out.
Thousands of people are left homeless.

Key Places and Vocabulary

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| bakery | A place where bread or cakes are made and sold |
| London | The capital city of England and the United Kingdom |
| River Thames | Many people got a boat on the River Thames to escape the fire |
| diary | A personal record of life's events |
| eye-witness | A person who has seen something and can give a description of it |
| embers | Small pieces of glowing coal or wood in a dying fire |
| fire-hooks | Giant hooks used to pull down houses |
| fire-break | When buildings are destroyed to make a gap so the fire can't spread |
| flammable | When something burns easily |
| St Paul's Cathedral | A Christian building razed to the ground in the fire and rebuilt using designs by Sir Christopher Wren |

Key Questions and Facts

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| When and where did the fire start? | The fire of London started in a bakery in Pudding Lane on 2 nd September 1666. |
| Why did the fire spread? | It hadn't rained for months so the city was very dry. In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood which burns easily. Houses were built too close together and there was no organised fire brigade. |
| How did they fight the fire? | They used leather buckets and squirts filled with water, axes, fire-hooks and gunpowder to make fire-breaks. |
| How did the fire stop? | The fire burned for 4 days. As the wind died down and changed direction the fire became under control and was finally put out. |
| How many people died? | 6 people died as a result of the fire. Thomas Farriner's maid was the first person to die because she was too scared to jump from the burning building. |
| What happened after the fire? | 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. |

Key People



Thomas Farriner

An ember from one of Thomas' bakery ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.



Samuel Pepys

One of the ways we know about the fire is because people wrote about it in their own personal diary.



King Charles II

Charles II was the King of England in 1666. After the fire, he made a decree that houses must be built further apart and built from stone not timber.

