

Year 2 - The Great Fire of London

Key vocabulary

- Bakery** A shop where bread and cakes are made.
- Eye-witness** A person who saw an event and can therefore describe it.
- Fire break** When buildings are destroyed to make a break so the fire can't spread to the next building.
- Fire hook** Giant hooks used to pull houses down.
- Flammable** When something burns easily.
- Leather bucket** Leather is a material made from animal skin, it was used to make buckets before plastic.
- Squirt** A handheld water pump to put out fires.
- Thatched roof** Dried straw tied tightly together and laid on the roof of a building.
- Timber frame** A wooden frame of a building that made the walls.
- Wattle and daub** Animal waste, straw and mud used to make walls of buildings.

Key People



Thomas Farriner
The baker



Samuel Pepys
Diary writer



King Charles II



Sir Thomas Bludworth
Lord Mayor of London



Sir Christopher Wren
The architect

Key Places



Pudding Lane
Where the fire started



The River Thames
Where many people fled during the fire



London Bridge
The only bridge to cross the river in 1666



St Paul's Cathedral
Destroyed by the fire



The Tower of London
Where King Charles II lived in 1666



Map showing how the Great Fire of London spread across the city from Sunday 2nd September 1666 to Thursday 6th September 1666

- 1) The fire began in **Pudding Lane** in **Thomas Farriner's baker** shop.
- 2) The fire spread rapidly because the buildings were crowded together and made of wood and other **flammable** materials.
- 3) The Lord Mayor (**Sir Thomas Bludworth**) went to look at the fire on the first day, but decided there was nothing to worry about and went back to bed.
- 4) There was no official fire brigade, so the people had to put the fire out by themselves.
- 5) The fire died down eventually because the wind changed direction and blew it towards the **River Thames**.
- 6) We know a lot about the fire because **Samuel Pepys** (a member of parliament at the time) kept a diary of what happened.
- 7) Much of London was destroyed and needed to be rebuilt after the fire.
- 8) Changes were made to how and where houses were built because of the Great Fire of London.
- 9) The fire was known to have killed at least 6 people and the homes of over 70,000 people were destroyed.
- 10) **Sir Christopher Wren** proposed an ambitious plan to help rebuild a better London with wider streets and different building materials.

Sunday 2nd September 1666	Monday 3rd September 1666	Tuesday 4th September 1666	Wednesday 5th September 1666	Thursday 6th September 1666
1am Fire begins 3am Lord Mayor sees the fire 7am The fire has spread 11am The Lord Mayor orders that houses are pulled down 3pm The King sails down the River Thames to observe the fire	The government order fire posts to be put up. A group of school boys help hold back the fire. Midday—The fire can be seen from as far away as Oxford.	The fire reaches its peak. The fire has spread far and wide. St Paul's Cathedral is destroyed. 11pm The wind dies down.	The wind changes direction, blowing the fire towards the River Thames. Most of the remaining fires are put out.	The final fires are extinguished.