

KS1 History Knowledge Organiser

Great Fire of London



Key Events and Facts

When and where did the fire start?

The Fire started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane.

Why did the fire start?

The fires used for baking were not put out properly.

Why did the fire spread so quickly?

In 1666, the buildings in London were made of wood and straw and they were very close together, making it easy for flames to spread. It had also been a dry summer, so the buildings were dry. Strong winds were blowing, which helped the flames to spread.

How did people try to put the fire out?

People used leather buckets and water squirts to put the fire out, but these did not work. Later in the weeks, Kings Charles II ordered buildings to be pulled down to stop the flames from spreading.

How and when was the fire put out?

By Thursday 6th September, the wind had died down. This meant that people were able to put out the flames.

Sequence of Events		
Sunday 2 nd September 1666	CRACKLE	Monday 3 rd September 1666
A fire began at the bakery on Pudding Lane. Most buildings were made of wood and straw so the fire spread quickly.	The fire reached London Bridge, burning down about 300 houses on the way.	The people of London started to run away from the city. They escaped on boats across the River Thames.
A Straight	Tuesday 4th September 1666	Wednesday 5th September 1666
Baynard's Castle caught fire and King Charles himself helped to put it out by throwing water on	The fierce wind meant that the fire was spreading further. St Paul's Cathedral went up in	The wind calmed down and the fire was finally put out. Leather buckets, metal hooks and water

flames too.

squirts were used.

Key Vocabulary		
Bakery	A place that makes bread, cakes, etc.	
St Pauls Cathedral	A very large church in London. A new St Pauls Cathedral was built after the fire.	
Diary	A book that people write about their lives in.	
Firebreak	A gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings.	
London	The capital city of England.	
Monuments	A structure, like a building or statue, to remember an event.	
Samuel Pepys	Wrote a diary about the Great Fire of London.	



Some Facts

The fire burnt down over 13,000 homes.

More than 70,000 people were made homeless.

Sir Christopher Wren designed a monument to remember the Great Fire of London.

When houses were rebuilt, they were made from bricks instead of wood.



