

Phase 2 Knowledge Organiser

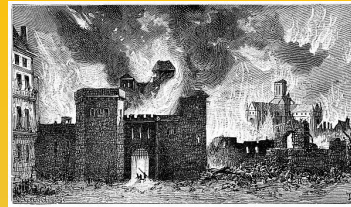
The Great Fire of London

When and where did the fire start?

The fire started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriner's bakery in Pudding Lane in London, the capital of England.

Why did the fire spread so quickly?

In London, in 1666, houses were made from wood and straw which burned easily. The buildings were close together and leaned into the road so it was easy for the flames to spread. It hadn't rained for a long time so the buildings were dry and burned even more easily than usual. When the fire started, there was a strong wind which helped spread the fire.



How did they put out the fire?

People used leather buckets and water squirts to try to extinguish the fire but these did not work. They asked the Lord Mayor if they could use fire hooks to pull down houses to create fire breaks but he refused. Later in the week, King Charles II ordered buildings to be pulled down to stop the flames from spreading. Eventually gunpowder was used to blow up houses to create fire breaks faster.

How and when was the fire put out?

By Thursday 6th September, the wind had died down and stopped spreading the flames. This meant that people could finally put out the flames.

Sunday 2nd September

The fire starts at around 1am in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane.

Sunday 2nd September

Mid-morning: Pepys starts to write about the fire in his diary

Monday 3rd September

The fire gets very close to the Tower of London.

Tuesday 4th September

The original Saint Paul's Cathedral is destroyed by the fire.

Wednesday 5th September

The wind dies down and the fire starts to spread more slowly.

Thursday 6th September

The fire is finally put out. Thousands of people are left homeless.

Key Vocabulary

17th Century	From the year 1601 to 1700. The Great Fire of London happened in the 17th century, in 1666.
Diary	A book that people write about their lives in.
London	At the time of the fire, London was the capital city of England. It is now
Rebuilt	Building something again after it's been broken or destroyed.
Saint Paul's Cathedral	A very large church in London. Saint Paul's Cathedral was rebuilt after the fire.

Leather buckets, fire hooks and water squirts were used to fight fires in the 17th century.



Important People

Samuel Pepys

Samuel Pepys was a famous diary writer who wrote about the events of the Great Fire of London. A lot of what we know about the fire comes from his diary.



King Charles II

King Charles II was king during The Great Fire of London and eventually agreed to buildings being pulled down to create fire breaks to help stop the fire.



Sir Christopher Wren

After the Great Fire of London, Sir Christopher Wren designed new churches and supervised the rebuilding of some of London's most important buildings including Saint Paul's Cathedral.

