

Year 2 History Knowledge Organiser Topic: The Great Fire of London



Key questions:

How did the fire start? Why did the fire spread so quickly? Did many people die? Where was the Mayor? How put the fire out? What was the impact of the fire? How do we know about the Great Fire?

Important dates/ times

Summer 1666	An unusually hot summer dried out the timbers of the houses making them more flammable
2nd Sep 1666 – 1.30 am	A fire started in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane in the middle of the night. The fire probably came from the oven left on overnight.
2nd Sep 1666 - 3 am	Lord Mayor looked at the fire but he decided it was not a big deal, so he went back to bed.
2nd Sep 1666 – 7 am	Samuel Pepys woke up in the morning and discovered that the fire expanded very quickly, burning already 300 houses.
3rd September 1666	There was no fire brigade in London in 1666 so Londoners themselves had to fight the fire, helped by local soldiers.
4th September 1666	St Paul's Cathedral burnt down- The Tower of London was saved (gunpowder was used to create larger "fire breaks")
5th September 1666	The change of the direction of the wind (towards the River Thames) helped to put out many of the fires.
6th September 1666	The Great Fire of London was finally under control. However, many people were left homeless. Over 13,000 houses and almost 90 churches were completely destroyed.

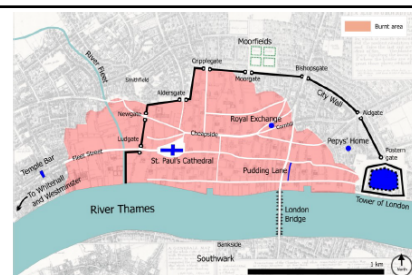
Key vocabulary

Bakery: a shop where bread and cake are made.
Oven: where food was cooked. Today we use gas or electricity to cook/bake or warm up our houses. However, back in 1666; people used to burn wood inside ovens or fireplaces.
Leather bucket: leather is the material that buckets were made from before plastic was invented.
Fire break: when buildings were destroyed on purpose to make a gap (break) so the fire would not spread easily to the next building.
Eyewitness: a person who sees an event and can, therefore, describe it in details
Thatched roof: dried straw, tied tightly to form a roof.
Wattle and daub: animal waste, straw and mud mixed together to build houses' walls.
Timber frame: wooden frames/poles to support the wattle and daub walls.
Architect: a person who designs buildings.



A painting (secondary source) of the fire.

Flammable: when something burns easily.
Fire Hooks: giant hooks used to pull houses down.
Cathedral: main church within a city.



London: capital city of England.

Key places

Pudding Lane: the street where the Great Fire of London started
St Paul's Cathedral: a famous cathedral burnt down during the fire. It was rebuilt after the fire and it still exists today.
The River Thames: the river that runs through London where many people escaped to.
Tower of London: where the King lived in 1666. It did not catch fire because the fire was stopped just before it reached the place.
London Bridge: the bridge which connects **North/ South London** over the **River Thames**.



Key Figures:

Thomas Faryner: the owner of the bakery where the fire started.
Thomas Bludworth: the Lord Mayor of London.
Samuel Pepys: a man of Parliament who witnessed the Great Fire of London and wrote a detailed diary about the accident.
King Charles II: the King of England in 1666.
Christopher Wren: (architect) who designed the new buildings after the Great Fire of London.

Output:

- Create a timeline of known facts.
- Compare jobs from 1666 to present day London.
- After looking at a range of sources: newspaper report on the Great Fire of London, diary entries from key members.
- To write a diary as Samuel Pepys, about The Great Fire of London

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