

Great Fire of London

Key dates

1	Sunday 2 nd September 1666	A fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. As news of the fire spreads, people run to escape its path.
2	Monday 3 rd September 1666	Londoners try to tackle the fire but it spreads quickly. People carry their possessions to safety using a horse, cart or boats on the River Thames.
3	Tuesday 4 th September 1666	Houses are pulled down in an attempt to stop the fire spreading. St Pauls Cathedral is destroyed.
4	Wednesday 5 th September 1666	The fire starts to burn more slowly as the wind dies down.
5	Thursday 6 th September 1666	The fire is finally under control and put out. People are left homeless.

Key Vocabulary

1	Bakery	A place where bread or cakes are made and sold.
2	London	Capital city of England and the United Kingdom.
3	River Thames	Many people got on boats here to escape the fire.
4	Diary	A personal record of life's event.
5	Eye witness	A person who has seen something and can give a description of it.
6	Drought	A period of time when an area or place experiences below-normal rainfall.
7	Fire-hooks	Giant hooks used to pull down houses.
8	Parliament	Where rules and laws are approved.
9	Flammable	When something burns easily.
10	St Paul's Cathedral	A Christian building burnt to the ground in the fire and then rebuilt using designs by Sir Christopher Wren.



Samuel Pepys was a Member of Parliament who is most famous for the diary he kept during the fire.

Key Questions

1	When and where did the fire start?	The fire started in a bakery in Pudding Lane on 2 nd September 1666.
2	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.
3	How did they fight the fire?	They used leather buckets and squirts filled with water, axes, fire-hooks and gunpowder to make fire-breaks.
4	How did the fire stop?	The fire burned for four days. As the wind died down and changed direction the fire became under control and was finally put out.
5	What happened after the fire?	London was rebuilt but in a smarter way. Fire brigades were set up. The fire also helped stop the spread of the Plague.

Other Significant figures

1	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.
2	John Evelyn	John Evelyn also wrote a diary documenting the events of the fire.
3	Sir Thomas Bloodworth	Sir Thomas Bloodworth was the Mayor of London at the time of the fire.
4	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.