

Our History • The Great Fire of London

Key Learning Question: What was the impact of the Great Fire on London and its people?



Crucial Knowledge

- To find out about the past and answer historical questions, we can use lots of different sources including pictures, maps, letters, artefacts and websites.
- London was very different in 1666. The houses were mostly made from wood and they were built very close together.
- The fire began in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. The fire burned for 5 days. St Paul's Cathedral burned down but the Tower of London was saved.
- There was no fire brigade in 1666. To try and put out the fire, people used hooks, water squirts and carried buckets of water from the River Thames. The fire was stopped by using gunpowder to blow up houses and create firebreaks.
- Samuel Pepys was a wealthy, educated man who lived in 1666. He kept a diary which details what happened during the Great Fire. He is still important today as his diary gives us so much detail about what happened at that time.
- The fire was devastating for London and, although it didn't kill many people, it left thousands homeless.
- As a result of the fire: the fire brigade was created, lots of plague-infected rats were killed, and the city of London was re-built better than before.



Key Vocabulary

- plague: An infectious disease which can be spread by fleas living on rats
- cathedral: A large church run by a bishop
- River Thames: Large river London is built around
- city: A large or important town
- water squirt: A way
- century: One hundred years
- wattle and daub: Method of building walls using wooden stakes and twigs woven together then filled with mud or clay

Big Ideas: Chronology • Society • Evolution & Technology • Change Makers



Important People & Places



Thomas Farriner

The Baker whose bakery in Pudding Lane the fire started in. Farriner said he thought his oven and candles had all been put out before he went to bed.



Samuel Pepys

Samuel Pepys was a rich and educated Londoner who kept a very detailed diary. His report of the fire helps us to learn about it today.



Pudding Lane

The place where the fire started. Today there is a Monument to the fire near the place where the original bakery stood.



We Are Building Our Knowledge From

- Toys Through Time (Y1)
- The History of Flight (Y1)

This will help when we learn about

- Queen Victoria (Y2)



Timeline

2nd Sept 1666

The fire starts in the bakery early on Sunday morning

3rd Sept 1666

The fire has spread quickly, many people have escaped to the river

4th Sept 1666

St Paul's Cathedral and 13,000 houses are destroyed

5th Sept 1666

The wind dies down and the fire is brought under control

6th Sept 1666

Small fires remain but the Great Fire is over