

The Great Fire of London



KEY QUESTIONS



Thomas Farriner's family was trapped upstairs in their house when the fire broke out in a bakery at Pudding Lane. They had to escape through a window into the house next door.

The fire spread fast due to a range of reasons. Many houses were made from wood and close together. There were also factories near Pudding Lane filled with oil, tar, rope and brandy – all highly flammable.

There was a strong easterly wind and it was also the middle of the night, so people were slow to react.

People didn't have large fire hoses in the 1660s – they would have carried water in leather buckets, squirted water through a big syringe (like a squirt gun) and pulled down burning buildings with long metal hooks.

How do we know about the Great Fire?

How did the fire start?

Where did the fire begin?

What factors were involved in the spread of the fire?

What were buildings made of in the 17th Century?

How were fires fought in the 17th Century?

What was London like at the time of the Great Fire?

How did London change after the Great fire?

Who was Christopher Wren?

Timeline

Sunday 2nd 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.

Monday 3rd September 1666

Fire-fighters try to tackle the fire but it spreads quickly. People carry their possessions to safety using a horse and cart or boats on the River Thames.

Tuesday 4th September 1666

Houses are pulled down in an attempt to stop the fire spreading. St. Paul's Cathedral is destroyed.

Wednesday 5th September 1666

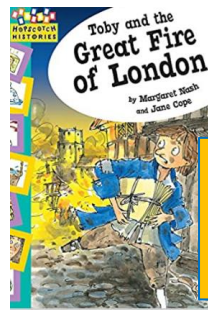
The fire starts to burn more slowly as the wind dies down.

Thursday 6th September 1666

The fire is finally under control and put out. People are left homeless.

Key People

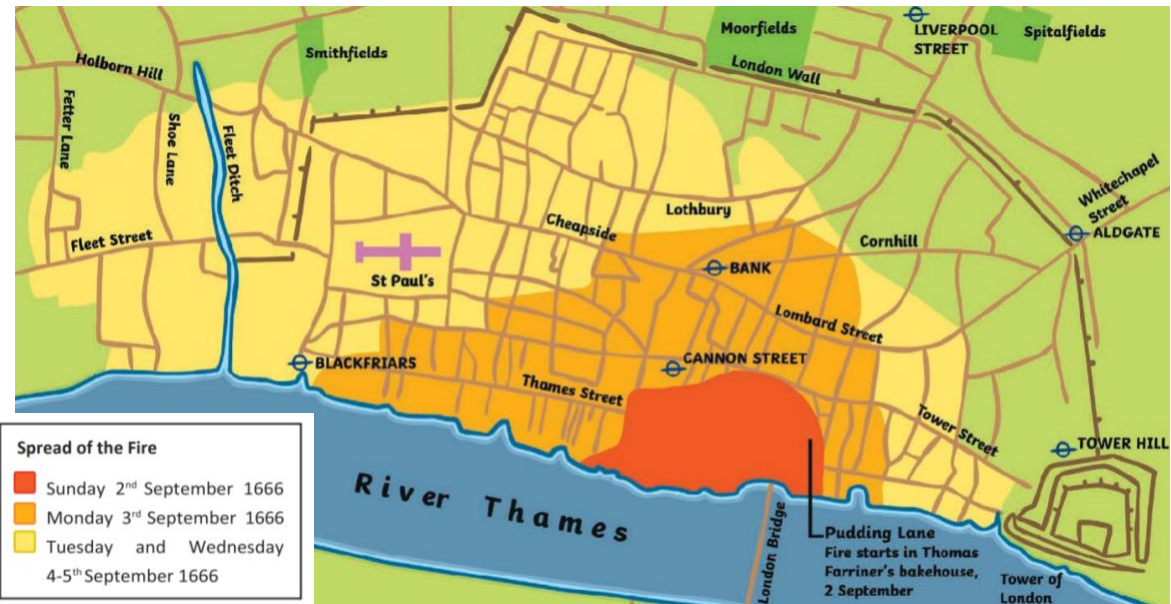
	Thomas Farriner	An ember from one of Thomas' bakery ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.
	Samuel Pepys	One of the ways we know about the fire is because people wrote about it in their own personal diary.
	King Charles II	Charles II was the 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.



Toby and The Great Fire of London – Margaret Nash



You wouldn't want to be in The Great Fire of London – Jim Pipe



Useful Websites:

The Great Fire of London Game - enjoy telling the story of the Great Fire of London through different characters.
<http://www.fireoflondon.org.uk/game/>

CBBC Newsround - guide to The Great Fire of London
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/37222884>

Key Places and Vocabulary	
bakery	A place where bread or cakes are made and sold
London	The capital city of England and the United Kingdom
River Thames	Many people got a boat on the River Thames to escape the fire
diary	A personal record of life's events
eye-witness	A person who has seen something and can give a description of it
embers	Small pieces of glowing coal or wood in a dying fire
fire-hooks	Giant hooks used to pull down houses
fire-break	When buildings are destroyed to make a gap so the fire can't spread
flammable	When something burns easily
St Paul's Cathedral	A Christian building razed to the ground in the fire and rebuilt using designs by Sir Christopher Wren