

Great Fire of London Knowledge Organiser

KEY PLACES

London	Capital city of England, home of the King and where the Great Fire occurred in September 1666
River Thames	Flows through London and acted as a natural barrier to the fire. Many people used it to escape to safety on boats.
Pudding Lane	Location of Thomas Farriner's bakery where the fire started
St.Paul's Cathedral	A key religious building in London, used to store precious items. It was destroyed by the fire and later re-built to a design by Christopher Wren
Monument	Tall column in London, designed by Christopher Wren, to commemorate where the Great Fire began. It is 62m high, the distance it is from the original location of the bakery.

KEY PEOPLE

King Charles II	King of England, was directly involved in fire-fighting
Thomas Farriner	A baker in Pudding Lane, London. A spark from his oven is thought to have started the fire.
Lord Mayor (Thomas Bloodworth)	The Lord Mayor of London who was blamed for allowing the fire to spread by not allowing buildings to be pulled down quickly enough.
Christopher Wren	Famous architect, responsible for re-building London after the fire, including St.Paul's Cathedral, a range of churches and the Monument.
Samuel Pepys	An navy administrator and Member of Parliament who is famous for the diary he kept for a decade.

CAUSES

- It had been a long, dry summer.
- There was a strong easterly wind, whilst the fire spread.
- The houses were close together.
- The houses were made out of wood.
- There were lots of factories containing flammable materials.
- No organised fire brigade

Where in the world was it?



Date	KEY EVENTS
Sunday 2 nd September 1666	1am – The fire begins. 3am – The Lord Mayor goes to look at the fire, but decides it is not too bad, so goes back to bed. 7am – The fire has spread rapidly. 11am – The Mayor orders the pulling down of houses, having been instructed by the King, who was informed by Samuel Pepys. 3pm – The King sails down the River Thames to observe the fire.
Monday 3 rd September 1666	The government order fire posts to be set up Midday – The fire can be seen 60 miles away in Oxford. Half the city has been destroyed.
Tuesday 4 th September 1666	The fire reaches its peak. A number of prisons and St Paul's Cathedral are destroyed. The fire narrowly misses the Tower of London. 11pm – The wind begins to die down.
Wednesday 5 th September 1666	The wind changes direction, blowing the fire towards the River Thames. Most of the remaining fires have been put out.
Thursday 6 th September 1666	The final fires are extinguished.

CONSEQUENCES

- Many people were left homeless and had to sleep in tents.
- King Charles II decided that the houses should be built further apart and they should be made from stone.
- An organised fire brigade was created.
- People began to insure their houses.

KEY VOCABULARY

Bakery	Flammable	Timber	Fire hooks	Fire break	Eye Witness	Cathedral	Sources	Lord Mayor	Monument
A shop where bread and cakes are made.	Burns easily.	Wood	Giant hooks used to pull houses down.	Gaps created by destroying buildings so that the fire cannot spread	A person who saw an event with their own eyes and can describe what happened	Largest, most important church in an area. Christian place of worship	A text, document or image that we can gain information from	The mayor of a big city (London in this case)	Statue, building or other structure built to remember a person or event

Key Questions

Cause	Change	Evidence
What were the causes of the Great Fire? Why/how did the fire grow so big? Why did it take Londoners such a long time to put the fire out?	What changed as a result of the Fire of London? How were people's lives changed in the aftermath? How did house building change? What changes were made to the way future fires were fought? What positive changes happened as a result of the fire?	How can we find out about the fire of London? Why is Samuel Pepys diary important and what can we learn from it? What other sources of information are there about the fire? (e.g. paintings, letters) Why are there no photographs or videos that tell us about the fire? Which sources of information about the fire are most useful and why?

