

Great Fire of London Knowledge Organiser

Key Questions	Key facts
When did the Great Fire of London start?	The Great Fire of London started on 2 September 1666.
Where did the Great Fire of London start?	The Great Fire of London started on Pudding Lane in Thomas Farriner's bakery.
How did the Great Fire of London start?	The fire started because a spark flew out of Thomas Farriner's oven when he left it on.
Why did the fire spread?	The fire spread quickly because there was a strong wind and the weather had been hot and dry beforehand. Houses were made from wood and they were built close together.
How did people try to put the fire out?	There was no fire service in 1666 so people used leather buckets and squirts full of water. To create fire breaks they used fire hooks and gun powder.
How long did the fire last?	The fire lasted for four days and once the wind had died down and changed direction it was easily put out.
How many people died?	6 people were officially recorded to have died in the Great Fire of London.
What happened after the fire?	Much of London was destroyed by the fire. Over 14,000 houses were destroyed leaving many people homeless. 87 churches were destroyed including St. Paul's Cathedral. King Charles II created a charter and ordered that houses in London were rebuilt in stone and that they were built further apart. Sir Christopher Wren was one of the main architects who planned the rebuilding of London after the fire. You can still see many of the buildings he designed today.

Key words	Definition
Fire hook	An old metal hook that was used to pull houses down in 1666.
Fire break	When houses or buildings are purposefully pulled down to stop the fire spreading.
ember	A glowing piece of coal or wood in a fire as it is going out.
Eye witness	Someone who sees something and tells others about what they saw.
diary	A personal, first-hand account about events as they happened.

Useful website links

Key facts and timeline about The Great Fire of London

<https://www.fireoflondon.org.uk/story/the-fire/>

The Great Fire of London game

<https://www.fireoflondon.org.uk/game/>

Information video

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/37222884>

Artefacts from The Great Fire of London

<https://www.fireoflondon.org.uk/browse-the-collection/>

3 information videos

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zph4g7h>

Key people

Thomas Farriner

He was the King's baker. The fire started in his bakery.

Samuel Pepys

Samuel Pepys lived in London during the Great Fire of London. We know about the Great Fire of London because he wrote a diary recount about what he saw.



King Charles II

In 1666 King Charles II was the reigning monarch. After the fire he sent out orders as to how London should be rebuilt.



Sir Christopher Wren

Sir Christopher Wren was an architect who submitted plans for how London was to be rebuilt. He famously designed and built St Paul's Cathedral which is still standing today. He also built Monument on Fish Hill Lane near Pudding Lane which people can climb.



Timeline

Sunday 2nd September 1666

The fire started at Pudding Lane London when baker Thomas Farriner left his oven on and a spark jumped out of the oven. People fled their homes to avoid the fire. The Lord Mayor didn't think the fire seemed that bad.

Monday 3rd September 1666

Local people tried to put the fire out by creating human chains passing buckets of water to each other. They also used fire squirts to put out flames. Other people took their belongings from their homes and tried to escape down the River Thames.

Tuesday 4th September 1666

The fire continued to rage and spread. Attempts were made to create fire breaks by pulling buildings down.

Wednesday 5th September 1666

The wind died down and the spread of the fire slowed down. It began to come under control.

Thursday 6th September 1666

The fire was finally under control. Many people were left homeless.

Art



Jan Griffier I (1652-1718)



Ron Embelton (1930-1988)



David Best

