

# History: Great Fire of London

Year 2 Autumn 2



## Key Dates

**2<sup>nd</sup> September 1666:** The fire starts at the bakery on Pudding Lane. It quickly spreads to other houses and people start to flee their homes.

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 1666:** The fire has spread to many surrounding streets, including the wealthier areas of London. Soldiers are brought to London to help control the crowds of people.

**4<sup>th</sup> September 1666:** Some houses are blown up with gunpowder to try and stop the spread of the fire. St Paul's Cathedral catches fire.

**5<sup>th</sup> September 1666:** The buildings on the Strand are blown up to stop the fire spreading further.

**6<sup>th</sup> September 1666:** The fire officially ends.

**1668:** New fire prevention regulations for London are approved by Parliament.

## Key Vocabulary

<b>bakery</b>	A place where bread and cakes are made or sold.
<b>diary</b>	A book in which you can keep a daily record of events and experiences.
<b>architect</b>	A person who designs buildings and in many cases, also supervises their construction.
<b>firebreak</b>	A strip of open space over which fire cannot spread.
<b>eyewitness</b>	A person who has seen something first hand and can give a first-hand description of it.
<b>ablaze</b>	To burn fiercely.
<b>wattle and daub</b>	A material formerly or traditionally used in building walls, consisting of a network of interwoven sticks and twigs covered with mud or clay.

## Key Facts

- The huge fire began early in the morning in a tiny bakery on Pudding Lane owned by a man called Thomas Farriner. He'd forgotten to put out the fire in his oven the night before.
- The fire burnt down a lot of buildings – over 13,000 houses, 87 churches and even St. Paul's Cathedral!
- Around 70,000 people lost their homes in the fire. These people had to set up tents in the fields around London so they had a place to stay.
- Houses burned so easily because they were made from wooden framed with wattle and daub. Plus, they were built close together along narrow streets, so the fire was able to move around easily and quickly.
- The houses that were rebuilt were made from bricks instead of wood, which doesn't burn. The new streets were also designed to be wider, and sewers were installed so the city was more sanitary.
- There were strong winds at the time of the fire. This made the fire spread even more quickly.



## Website Links



## Enquiry Questions

- What was Stuart London like?
- Could anyone have stopped what happened on 2 September 1666?
- What was it like at the height of the fire?
- What was left of London?

## Why don't you...

- Make your own wattle and daub style house?
- Design a new house that could replace the ones burnt down?
- Write a diary, imagining you were alive during the Great Fire of London?

## Historical Skills

### **Chronology:**

Use phrases and words like: 'before', 'after', 'past', 'present', 'then' and 'now'; in their historical learning

### **Historical knowledge and interpretation:**

Recount some interesting facts from a historical event, such as where the fire of London started

Explain why someone in the past acted in the way they did

### **Historical enquiry:**

Say at least two ways they can find out about the past, for example using books and the internet

## Historical Concepts

**Cause and Consequence** - What happened? Why did it happen? What happened afterwards?

**Peasantry** - How were normal people affected? What part did they play? How do we know about them?