

THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON



WHEN AND WHERE THE FIRE STARTED

The Great Fire on London started shortly after midnight on the evening of Sunday 2nd September 1666 in a bakery on Pudding Lane. It was the King's Bakery run by Thomas Farriner. Most people were asleep at the time.

WHY DID THE FIRE SPREAD?



The streets of London were very narrow and houses were built close together. The houses were made of wood and some had straw roofs as well as straw on the floors.

The weather was a factor as well as it had been a hot summer and everywhere was very dry. A strong wind started that fanned the fire making it spread very fast. It was so hot no-one could get near it to put it out.

HOW DID THEY TRY AND STOP THE FIRE OUT?



There was no fire brigade in the 1600s. The people of London tried to put the fire out using leather buckets filled with water from the River Thames and beating the fire with wood sticks.

They made big 'fire breaks' by blowing up houses with gunpowder to create gaps to stop the fire.

HOW LONG DID THE FIRE LAST?



The fire burned for four nights and days. The people ran away from the city taking their belongings with them. Many got onto boats on the River Thames and watched the fire.

Eventually the wind died down and they were able to put out the fire with water.

HOW MANY HOUSES DID THE FIRE BURN DOWN?



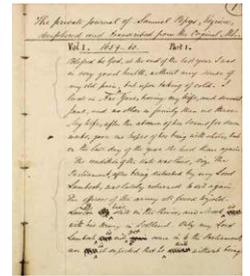
13,000 houses were destroyed by the fire as well as 87 churches. The Guildhall and the old St Paul's Cathedral were destroyed as well as many other buildings. London looked very different afterwards and many people did not have a home to go back to.

HOW DO WE KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE FIRE?



Samuel Pepys was an eyewitness and wrote a detailed diary about the events of the Great Fire of London.

He watched the fire from a boat after leaving his home and burying his belongings for safety.



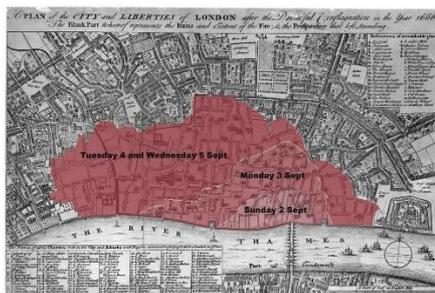
LONDON AFTERWARDS



King Charles II ordered London to be rebuilt bigger and better. Improvements in hygiene and fire safety were made.

Wider streets, open spaces along the Thames and buildings made out of brick and stone not wood. St Paul's Cathedral was rebuilt and a monument to the Great Fire of London was erected near Pudding Lane.

FIND OUT MORE...



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Er3GKw8Z3R4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uWPbllrgAQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VarSSAwimU>

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. Where did the fire start?
2. Who was the monarch at the time?
3. Why did the fire last so long?
4. How do we know so much about the fire?
5. What happened to London afterwards?