

Vocabulary

bakery A place where bread or cakes are made and sold

London The capital city of England

River Thames Many people got a boat on the River Thames to escape the fire

diary A book that people write about their lives in

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

Topic Knowledge Organiser

Year 2

The Great Fire of London



Key information

When and where did the fire start? The fire started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane.

Why did the fire start? The fires used for baking were not put out properly.

Why did the fire spread so quickly? In 1666, the buildings in London were made of wood and straw and they were very close together, making it easy for the flames to spread. It had also been a dry summer, so the buildings were dry. Strong winds were blowing, which helped the flames to spread.

How did people try to put the fire out? People used leather buckets and water squirts to try to put the fire out, but these did not work. Later in the week, King Charles II ordered buildings to be pulled down to stop the flames from spreading.

How and when was the fire put out? By Thursday 6th September, the wind had died down. This meant that people were able to put out the flames. 13,200 houses were destroyed by the fire and 70,000 people were left homeless. Many left London to live elsewhere.

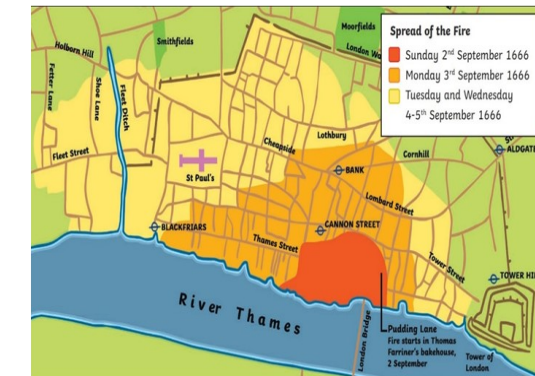
Important People

Samuel Pepys (1633-1703)

Samuel Pepys is famous for keeping a diary where he wrote a lot about the Great Fire in 1666. He also played an important part in helping to fight the fire by warning King Charles II that more needed to be done on the day the fire broke out

King Charles II (1630-1685)

King Charles II ruled from 1660-1685 and was king during the Great Fire of London. He helped the fire fighters, gave rewards to people who tried to stop the fire, and helped people who were hungry and home-



WHAT CAME BEFORE?

Year 1 Time Travellers

WHAT COMES NEXT?

Year 4 London

Year 5 Terrible Tudors

Timeline

Sunday 2nd September 1666	Monday 3rd September 1666	Tuesday 4th September 1666	Wednesday 5th September 1666	Thursday 6th September 1666
Fire breaks out on Pudding Lane, London, at midnight	The fire gets very close to the Tower of London	St Paul's Cathedral is destroyed by the fire.	The wind dies down and the fire spreads more slowly.	The fire is finally put out. Thousands of people are left homeless