



The Great Fire of London



The Great Fire of London swept through the central parts of London from Sunday 2 September to Thursday 6 September 1666. It destroyed 13,200 houses, 87 parish churches and St Paul's Cathedral.

Key Knowledge

How did the fire start?	The fire started at 1am in Thomas Farriner's bakery, on Pudding Lane. It was probably a spark from the oven that caused the fire.
Why did the fire spread so quickly?	It had been a long and dry summer. Houses at the time were mostly made of wood and were built very close together. The fire also spread because there was a strong wind.
Did many people die?	Only 6 people are recorded as having died in The Great Fire of London. However, there were probably more deaths because at the time the deaths of poor people were not recorded.
Who put the fire out?	There was no fire brigade at the time, so people had to try and put out the fire themselves. They did this using leather buckets, water squirts, and fire hooks to pull buildings down.
What happened afterwards?	In October 1666, King Charles appointed architects including Sir Christopher Wren, to start rebuilding London. Some streets were widened or straightened. All houses had to be constructed of brick and houses were built with fire-breaks between them.
How do we know about the fire?	Samuel Pepys wrote about it in his diary. Also, artists painted pictures of the fire burning.

Key Vocabulary

architect	A person who plans and designs buildings.
diary	A book where you keep a daily record of events and experiences.
fire break	A gap between houses to stop the spread of fire.
King Charles II	King of England from 1660 to 1685. He helped to stop the fire, and helped people after it, which made people like him more.
leather buckets	A type of bucket used to put out the fire.
The Monument	A column which you can climb, built to help us remember the fire.
Pudding Lane	The road where the fire started.
River Thames	The largest river in London.
Samuel Pepys	A man who wrote about the Great fire of London in his diary as it was happening. He was only a quarter of a mile away from Pudding Lane when it started!
Sir Christopher Wren	He rebuilt 52 churches after the Great Fire in 1666, including St Paul's Cathedral.
Squirters	A tool used to put out a fire in 1666.
St Paul's Cathedral	The cathedral was destroyed by the fire and then rebuilt.
Thomas Farriner	The Great Fire of London started in his bakery in Pudding Lane on 2 September 1666. He and his children escaped the fire, but his maid died in the flames.

King Charles II
(1630-1685)










Samuel Pepys
(1633-1703)



Thomas Farriner
(1615-1670)



						
Christopher Columbus	Queen Elizabeth I	The Great Fire of London	Florence Nightingale	Queen Elizabeth II Coronation	Moon Landing	Olympic Games London
1492	1559	1666	1820	1953	1969	2012
Year 1	Year 1	Year 2	Year 2	Year 1	Year 1	Year 2