

The Great Fire of London



Prior Learning: Children should already know that London is the capital city of England. Children have identified similarities and differences between how we used to live and now when studying The Victorians.

Key People

Thomas Farriner
An ember from one of Thomas' bakery ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings

Samuel Pepys



One of the ways we know about the fire is because people wrote about it in their own personal diary.

King Charles II



Charles II was the King of England in 1666. After the fire, he made a decree that houses must be built further apart and built from stone not timber.

The Great Fire of London started on 2nd September 1666 and lasted for 5 days. The weather in London had been hot and it had not rained for ten months. Houses in London were mainly built from wood and straw, which is flammable, especially when it is dry. The houses were also very close together, so the fire could easily spread.



Vocabulary	Definition
Bakery	A shop where bread and cakes are made
Eyewitness	A person who saw an event and can therefore describe it.
Fire hooks	Giant hooks used to pull houses down.
Fire break	When buildings are destroyed to make a break so the fire can't spread to the next building.
Flammable	Something that burns easily
Leather bucket	Leather is a material and was what buckets were made from before plastic was invented.
Oven	A place where food is cooked.
Thatched roof	A roof made of dry vegetation such as straw and reeds.
Servant	A person who works in a house and does the cooking and cleaning.
Embers	Small pieces of glowing coal or wood in a dying fire.
Cart	A vehicle with 2 or 4 wheels pulled by a horse

Timeline

2nd September 1666 - 7pm	A fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane.
2nd September 1666—7am	Samuel Pepys wakes to find that 300 houses have already been destroyed in the fire.
3rd September 1666	Houses are pulled down using fire hooks to try to make a fire break. It doesn't work.
4th September 1666	St Paul's Cathedral burns down.
6th September 1666	The Great Fire of London eventually stops, leaving hundreds of people homeless.

