

Key Facts—Great Fire of London

The fire began in a bakery.

The Great Fire of London lasted four days.

The City of London was a natural fire risk because houses were made of wood, straw and built close together so the fire spread quickly.

Most of London was destroyed and because the fire was so big, it is called the Great Fire of London.

To fight fires during this time, people would have used leather buckets, metal hooks and water squirts. Fire-fighters did not exist.

St Paul's Cathedral was the most famous building destroyed by the fire. The Tower of London was not destroyed.

London in 1666 — 1/5 of the population had died of the Plague in 1665.

England had recently been at war with France, the Netherlands and Spain.

Samuel Pepys was an eye witness to the Great Fire of London and his famous diary gives a vivid account of what he saw and how he felt.

Artists who were alive in 1666, painted pictures of the fire afterwards.

King Charles II was king at the time of the fire.



History Year 2 Spring 1



Painting of the Great Fire of London



Bakery in 1666



embers

Great Fire of London—Vocabulary

Vocabulary	Definition
bakery	A place where bread or cakes are made and sold
blazing	A brilliant burst of fire
diary	A personal record of life's events
embers	fragments of burning material left as a fire dies
eye witness	A person who has seen something and can give a description of it
fire break	A gap created that acts as a barrier to slow or stop the progress of a fire
fire hook	A wooden stick with a metal hook used to pull down roof tiles and buildings to stop the fire from spreading.
fire squirt	A pump used to suck up water and then squirt at the fire
ignited	To set fire
monument	A structure put up to remind us of a person or an event
spark	A small part of the fire that is thrown out.

2nd September 1666	3rd September 1666	4th September 1666	5th September 1666	6th September 1666
The fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane.	It spread quickly as the houses were made of wood.	St Paul's Cathedral caught fire.	The wind died down, the fire started to go out.	The fire stopped. Lots of people lost all of their belongings.

Knowledge and Understanding:

Children will learn:

- about some of the ways in which London has changed
- about some of the ways in which how we live now is different and similar to how people lived in 1666.
- how the Great Fire started and spread across London.
- how we know about the Great Fire of London.
- how London was rebuilt after the Great Fire.

Key Skills and concepts:

Children will be able to:

- Recognise why people did things, why events happened and what happened as a result
- Sequence artefacts closer together in time.
- Compare pictures of photographs of people or events in the past.
- Identify differences between ways of life at different times
- Discuss reliability of photos/ accounts/stories
- Use a source - observe or handle sources to answer questions about the past on the basis of simple observations.
- Communicate their knowledge through:
 - Discussion....
 - Drawing pictures...
 - Drama/role play..
 - Making models.....
 - Writing..
 - Computing and technology...

Key Questions – Great Fire of London

How did the fire start?

Why did the fire spread so quickly?

What were the key events of the Great Fire of London?

How do we know about the Great Fire of London?

How was the fire put out?

How did the fire impact London?



Samuel Pepys

