



Year: Two

Subject: History

The Great Fire of London: what was life like in 1666? Beyond Living Memory

1. What I should already know:

What a timeline is.

Know that the UK has had a king or queen for many years.

Understand that certain things are different in their lives from that of their grandparents when they were young



2. What I am going to Learn

When and where did the fire start?

The fire started in a bakery in Pudding Lane, in London, on 2nd September 1666.

Why did the fire spread?

It hadn't rained for months so the city was very dry and it was very windy. In 1666, lots of houses were made of wood with thatched roofs that burned very easily. The houses were very close together and there was no proper fire brigade.

How did they fight the fire?

They used leather buckets and squirts filled with water, axes, fire hooks and gunpowder to make fire breaks.

How did the fire stop?

The fire burned for 4 days. Then the wind died down and changed direction.

How many people died?

Only 6 people died as a result of the fire.

What happened after the fire?

13,200 houses were destroyed by the fire and 70,000 people were left homeless. Many left London to live elsewhere and some slept in tents.

How do we know about the fire?

Eye-witnesses like Samuel Pepys wrote about it, some painters who were alive then painted it.

What was different about life in 1666 compared to now?

Could the Great Fire of London happen now?

Would you have liked to live in 1666?

Key People

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



Samuel Pepys wrote a diary, he was in London when the fire started. He wrote about it in his diary. He was an eye-witness.



King Charles II was the King of England in 1666. After the fire, he made laws to make sure it didn't happen again.

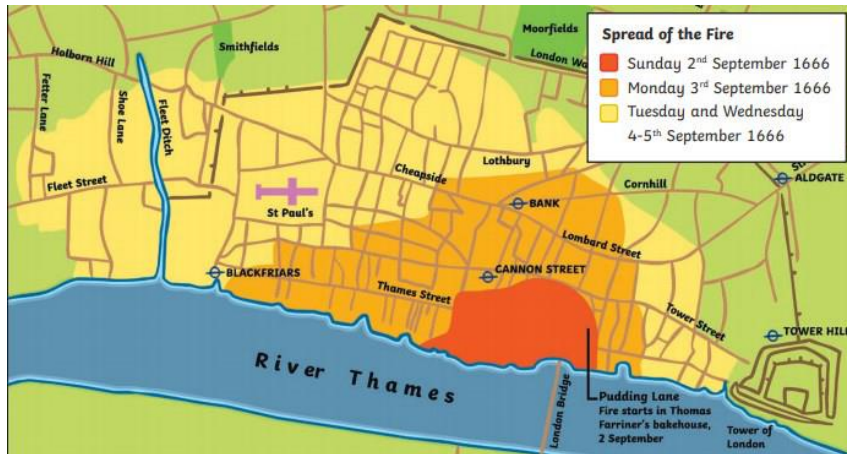


Sir Christopher Wren was a famous architect. He designed the new St Paul's Cathedral which you can visit in London today.



4. Timeline, map, quotation

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Monday 3rd September 1666 The fire gets very close to the Tower of London. | Tuesday 4th September 1666 St Paul's Cathedral is destroyed by the fire. | Timeline of Events |
| Sunday 2nd September 1666 The fire starts at 1 a.m. Mid-morning: Samuel Pepys starts to write about the fire in his diary . | Wednesday 5th September 1666 The wind dies down and the fire spreads more slowly. | Thursday 6th September 1666 The fire is finally put out. Thousands of people are left homeless. |



"It made me weep to see it. The churches, houses, and all on fire and flaming at one, and a horrid noise the flames made."
 Samuel Pepys

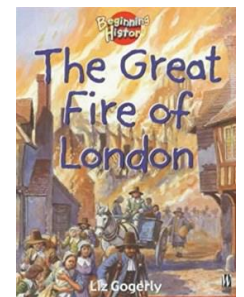
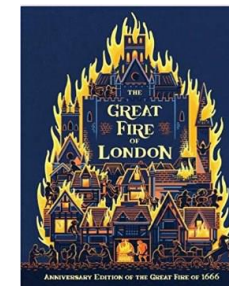
6. Resources and skills to help me learn

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/museum/history-and-stories/the-great-fire-of-london/>
<http://www.fireoflondon.org.uk/game/>
<https://greatfireoflondon.net/facts/>

5. Important vocabulary and places

| Vocabulary | Definition |
|---------------------|--|
| architects | People who design buildings |
| artefacts | Objects that help us find out about the past |
| bakery | A place where bread or cakes are made and sold |
| congested | Crowded and blocked |
| decade | A period of 10 years |
| diary | A personal record of life's events |
| eye-witness | Someone who saw the event/s. |
| embers | small pieces of glowing coal or wood in a dying fire |
| extract | A short passage taken from a larger piece of writing |
| 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 | Easily set on fire |
| Place | Significance |
| London | The capital city of the United Kingdom, and England |
| Pudding Lane | The road where the fire started in a bakery |
| River Thames | The river that runs through London |
| St Paul's Cathedral | A big church burnt to the ground in the fire and rebuilt using designs by Sir Christopher Wren |

Interesting books



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name: _____ | Start of unit date: _____ | End of unit date: _____ |
| | My answers at the START of the unit: | My answers at the END of the unit: |
| 1. When and where did the Great Fire of London start? | | |
| 2. Give two reasons why the fire spread? | | |
| 3. How did they fight the fire? Give two ways. | | |
| 4. Who was Samuel Pepys? | | |
| 5. Give two examples of what was different about life in 1666. | | |
| Anything else I know about the topic: | | |