






The Great Fire of London – Summer Term 1 Year 1 History

Key vocabulary	Key knowledge	Key people	
Bakery A place that where bread and cakes are made and sold.	When and where did the fire start? The Great Fire of London started on Sunday 2 nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriner’s bakery on Pudding Lane.	Thomas Farriner An ember from one of Thomas’ bakery overs ignited some nearby firewood. The firewood quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.	
Fire-hooks Giant hooks used to pull down houses.	Why did the fire start? The fires which was used for baking was not put out properly.		
Eye-witness A person who has seen something and can give a description of it.	Why did the fire spread so quickly? In 1666, the houses in Londer were made of wood and straw and they were very close together. This meant it was easy for flames to spread. It had also been a dry summer, so the buildings were dry. Strong winds were blowing at the time of the fire, which helped the flames to spread.	Samuel Pepys (1633-1703) Famous for keeping a diary for most of the 1660s. He wrote a lot about the Great Fire in 1666. He also played an important part in helping fight the fire by warning King Charles II that more needed to be done on the day the fire broke out.	
Embers Small pieces of glowing coal or wood in a dying fire.			
Diary A book that people write about their lives in to record life events.	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.	King Charles II (1630-1685) He ruled England in 1666. He helped the fire fighters, gave rewards to people who tried to stop the fire, and helped people who were hungry and homeless after the fire was over.	
Fire-break When buildings are destroyed to make a gap so the fire can’t spread.			
Flammable When something burns easily.	How did the fire stop? The fire burned for 4days. As the wind died down and changed direction the fire became under control and was finally put out.	Key places	
	How many people died? 6 people died as a result of the fire. Thomas Farriner’s maid was the first person to die because she was too scared to jump from the burning building.	River Thames: A river than runs through London.	
	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.	London Bridge: Bridge that connected London over the River Thames.	
		St Paul’s Cathedral: The present Cathedral, the masterpiece of Britain’s most famous architect Sir Christopher Wren, is at least the fourth to have stood on the site.	

Timeline of events

Sunday 2nd September 1666	Monday 3rd September 1666	Tuesday 4th September 1666	Wednesday 5th September 1666	Thursday 6th September 1666
A fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane at 1am. As news of the fire spreads, people run to escape its path.	Fire-fighters try to tackle the fire but it spreads quickly. The fire gets very close to the Tower of London. People carry their possessions to safety using a horse and cart or boats on the River Thames.	Houses are pulled down in an attempt to stop the fire spreading. St. Paul's Cathedral is destroyed by the fire.	The wind starts to die down and the fire starts to burn more slowly.	The fire is finally under control and put out. Thousands of people are left homeless