

Knowledge organiser- History Year 1

How do stories teach us about the world around us? The Great Fire of London

The **Great Fire of London 1066**, we know about what happened in this fire thanks to **Samuel Pepys** who wrote a **diary** about what happened.



Key vocabulary	
diary	A book that people write about their lives in
past	Something that happened or was done in the past
present	The period of time that is happening now
firebreak	A gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings
St Paul's Cathedral	A very large church in London. A new St Paul's Cathedral was built after the fire

KEY EVENTS AND FACTS	
When and where did the fire start?	The fire started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane.
Why did the fire start?	The fires used for baking were not put out properly.
Why did the fire spread so quickly?	In 1666, the buildings in London were made of wood and straw and they were very close together, making it easy for the flames to spread. It had also been a dry summer, so the buildings were dry. Strong winds were blowing, which helped the flames to spread.
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.
How and when was the fire put out?	By Thursday 6th September, the wind had died down. This meant that people were able to put out the flames.

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.

Key Knowledge

Spread of the Fire

- Sunday 2nd September 1666
- Monday 3rd September 1666
- Tuesday and Wednesday 4-5th September 1666

leather water bucket

St Paul's Cathedral

Tower of London

axe

water squirt

fire hook

Investigate for yourself and useful links

This unit of work links to learning we did about different buildings in London when we learnt about Queen Elizabeth II

Newsround clip- what is the Great Fire of London <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/37253903>

Horrible history song- rebuilding of London after the fire <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/horrible-histories-great-fire-of-london>

Give this quiz ago what do you know about the fire <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/grisly-great-fire-quiz>

Interactive game <http://www.fireoflondon.org.uk/>

At the end of this unit I will know...

- the main events of the Great Fire of London
- Who Samuel Pepys was and why he was important
- How diaries can help us find out about the past and tell us about people's lives
- Looked at what I would include in a Diary to tell people about life now