



The Great Fire of London



Pupils will learn

- I find out about events that are significant nationally or globally – the Great Fire of London.
- I learn about the lives of significant individuals in the past – Samuel Pepys.
- I need to understand and use common words relating to the passing of time.
- I need to be able to identify similarities and differences between ways of life now and in the past.
- I should be able to place certain events on a simple timeline and know which order they come in.

Important facts

- The Fire of London started on 2nd September 1666 and lasted for 5 days.
- The weather in London was hot and hadn't rained for months.
- Houses in London were mainly built from wood
- which is flammable, especially when it is very dry.
- The houses were also very close together, so fire could easily spread.

Timeline of events

- 2nd September 1666 – 1.30am: A fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane in the middle of the night. The fire probably came from the oven.
- 2nd September 1666 – 7am: Samuel Pepys wakes up and finds out that the fire had already burnt down 300 houses!
- 3rd September 1666 – The firemen try to put the fire out by using leather buckets of water and then pulling down houses with fire hooks. They hope this will make a fire break but the fire keeps on spreading.
- 4th September 1666 – St Paul's Cathedral burns down.
- 6th September 1666 – The Fire of London finally stops but many people are left homeless.

Home Learning Ideas

- Make a house from 17th Century
- Make some bread (see recipe)
- <http://www.fireoflondon.org.uk/game/>

Books to read at home

- Toby and The Great Fire Of London (Hopscotch: Histories)
- You Wouldn't Want to be in the Great Fire of London!

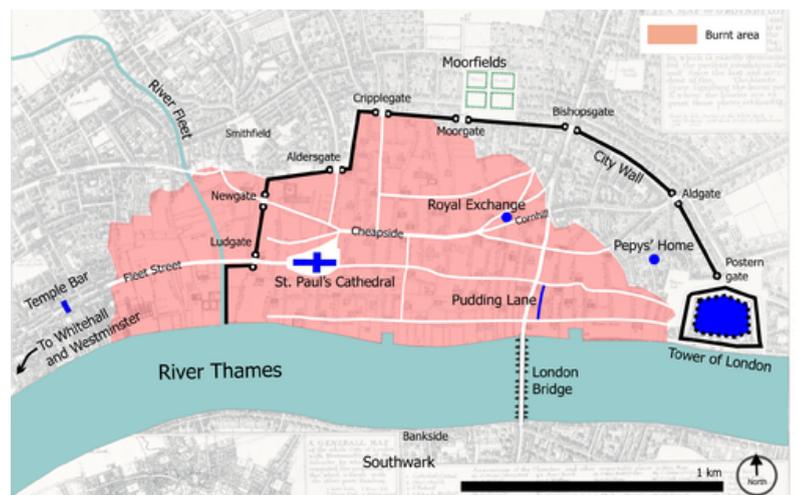
Inquiry Questions

Was Tom Farriner to blame for the start of the Fire?

What do you think made the fire worse?

How has fighting fires changed since the 17th Century?

Further Information



Key Vocabulary

Fire hooks	Giant hooks used to pull houses down	Bakery	A shop where bread and cakes are made
Fire break	When buildings are destroyed to make a break so the fire can't spread to the next building. Flammable: when something burns easily.	Oven	A place where food is cooked. Today we use gas or electricity to heat ovens but in 1666 they burnt wood to heat the oven.
Samuel Pepys	A famous man who wrote a diary about the fire.	Leather bucket	Leather is a material and was what buckets were made from before plastic was invented.
Eyewitness	A person who saw an event and can describe it.	Tower of London	Where the King lived in 1666. It did not catch fire because the fire was stopped just before it reached the Tower.
St Paul's Cathedral:	A famous Christian church which burnt down during the fire. It was rebuilt.	King Charles II	The King of England in 1666.
Flammable	When something burns easily.		
Materials	The matter from which a thing is or can be made from.	Characteristics	Feature or quality belonging typically to a person or thing which can identify them.
Rear	The back part of something.	Comparison	Looking at the similarities and differences between two or more people or things.

* Words in grey are Tier 2 (non-topic specific) vocabulary