

Keystage history

Knowledge organiser

The Great Fire of London

British History



The Great Fire of London – timeline September 1666



2. The fire spread quickly and by 7 o'clock in the morning more than 300 houses had been destroyed



4. The King was told of the fire and he ordered the Mayor to knock down any houses to stop it spreading



6. The fire got worse; many more buildings were destroyed including St. Paul's Cathedral.



8. By night the fire was close to the Tower of London

9. The wind died down and the fire stopped spreading so quickly

Sunday 2nd - morning

Sunday 2nd - afternoon

Monday 3rd

Tuesday 4th

Wednesday 5th Thursday 6th

1. The fire started in a bakery in Pudding Lane owned by Thomas Farriner.

3. Some people tried to stop the fire spreading

5. People realized they couldn't stay any longer and escaped on foot and on river barges.

7. They even tried blowing up houses with gunpowder to stop the fire spreading even further

10. By evening all the fires had been put out.



The Great Fire of London

Why is this event important?

The Great Fire of 1666 is an event that most people know about today not least because it changed the face of London as we know it today. It provides a marvellous opportunity to explore ideas of causes and consequences, as well as change, and encourages children to get a feel for what life must have been like at the time, using a rich array of evidence.



Key vocabulary



Cathedral Very large church



Diary Book in which people write about things that happen in their life



Evidence Clues used to prove that something happened



Pitch/Tar Thick black sticky liquid that easily catches fire



Plaque Writing to remember where something happened in the past



Squirts Old-fashioned water carrier when you push the handle water shoots out



Thatch Straw used to cover the roofs which easily catches alight



Warehouse Large storehouse

Who is who?

Duke of York

The brother of the King who helped give orders to stop the fire spreading

King Charles II

The King at the time.

Samuel Pepys

Famous man who kept a diary of everything that happened

Thomas Bludworth/Bloodworth

He was the mayor of London who did not take warnings about the fire seriously enough at the start.

Thomas Farriner/Farynor

The baker who lived in Pudding lane. A spark from his ovens started the Fire.

Top takeaways

1. Children understand how a small event, with a careless baker in a short narrow lane, can lead to a major rebuilding of vast areas of the capital.
2. They are able to explain that there were a variety of reasons for the fire and can suggest the most important ones.
3. They are able to describe the desperate measures taken to control the fire and can explain how Londoners felt at the time.
4. They can explain how the appearance of London changed after the Fire both the houses and the street layout and that the fire led to better fire service.

Map of Fire of London

