



How do we know about the Great Fire of London?

National Curriculum objectives:

Pupils should be taught about events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally, for example, The Great Fire of London.

Historical skills and enquiry

Researching skills

- To be able to read and interpret a map.
- To be able to make comparisons.
- To be able to sequence an event and place in a time frame.
- To place the Great Fire of London in a time period
- To identify the causes and consequences of the Great Fire of London
- To be aware of different sources of evidence re the Great Fire and draw inferences from these.
- To ask simple questions regarding the Great Fire of London
- Consider the impact of the Great Fire of London and how this has impacted the lives of people today
- To identify the differences and similarities between time periods using sticky knowledge.



Famous individuals during the Great Fire of London



Samuel Pepys



Thomas Farriner



King Charles II

Knowledge:

- The fire started on Pudding Lane on 2nd September 1666.
- The fire started in a baker's shop owned by Thomas Farriner.
- 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.
- There was no fire brigade so people used buckets of water 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.
- By Thursday 6th September, the wind had died down. This meant that people were able to put out the flames.
- After the fire, King Charles II ordered that London be rebuilt. He decided that houses would be built from brick and stone.

Key Vocabulary:

- Bakery** - a place that makes bread, cakes, etc.
- Samuel Pepys** - an eye witness of the fire who wrote a detailed diary about the event.
- St Paul's Cathedral** - a very large church in London that burnt down in the fire. A new St Paul's Cathedral was built after the fire.
- Diary** - a book that people write about their lives in.
- Firebreak** - a gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings.
- Fireman** - people whose job is to put out fires and rescue people.
- Pudding Lane** - small street in London widely known as the location of Thomas Farriner's bakery where the Great Fire of London started in 1666.
- Events** - a thing that happens or takes place, especially one of importance.
- King Charles II** - King of England, Ireland and Scotland from 1649 to 1685.
- River Thames** - the longest river in England that also flows through London.

Sunday 2nd September 1666	The fire starts at 1 a.m. Mid-morning: Samuel Pepys starts to write about the fire in his diary.
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
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.
After the fire...	King Charles II orders London to be rebuilt with houses made of brick and stone.



How long did the Great Fire of London burn for?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
3 days		
4 days		
5 days		

The Great Fire started in a candle makers shop?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
True		
False		

St Paul's Cathedral burned down on the Tuesday?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
True		
False		

Who was responsible for the start of the Great Fire of London?	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Samuel Pepys		
King Charles II		
Thomas Farriner		

The Great Fire started on...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Starter Road		
Mains Street		
Pudding Lane		

What happened on the Thursday so that the flames could be put out?	
Start of unit:	End of unit:

What did Samuel Pepys do that was important during the Great Fire of London?	
Start of unit:	End of unit: