

The Great Fire of London- Year 2 Knowledge Organiser

What should we already know?

- Where London is.
- How a fire starts.



Timeline of Events

Sunday 2nd September 1666

- 1am – the fire begins
- 3am – the Lord Mayor goes to look at the fire but decides it is not too bad so goes back to bed
- 7am – the fire has spread
- 11am – the Mayor orders the pulling down of houses having been instructed by King Charles II, who was informed by Samuel Pepys
- 3pm – the King sails down the River Thames to observe the fire

Monday 3rd September 1666

The government order fire posts to be set up. A group of school boys successfully hold back the fires.

Midday – the fire can be seen 60 miles away in Oxford. Tuesday 4th September 1666

The fire reaches its peak. It spread from Temple in the west, to the Tower of London in the east (where gun powder was used to blow up houses in order to stop the fire reaching the Tower). A number of prisons in London were destroyed by the fire as was St. Paul's Cathedral.

11pm – the wind begins to die down

Wednesday 5th September 1666

The wind changes direction, blowing the fire towards the River Thames. Most of the remaining fires have been put out.

Thursday 6th September 1666

The final fires are extinguished.



Key Vocabulary

Pudding Lane: the assumed site of the beginning of the fire.
Thomas Farriner: The baker.
Samuel Pepys: a witness who wrote about the fire in his diary.
Leather Bucket- container used for carrying water.
Squirt- handheld water pump.
Fire hook- metal pole with a hooked end, for pulling down buildings that were on fire.
Gun powder: explosive for blowing up buildings.
Thatched roof: dried straw roof.
Timber frame: wooden frame of a building.
Timeline: the order in which events happened.
Douse: put out a fire with water.
Embers: burning remains of a fire.
Scarce: not enough for what is needed.
Extinguished: put out.

Assessment

- Explain where the fire happened.
- Give a simple reason as to why the fire spread.
- Name a way the fire was prevented from spreading.
- Give several reasons as to why the fires spread.
- Name several ways in which the fire was stopped.
- Name the location in which the fire began.
- Know how many days the fire burned for.
- Know the year in which the fire started.
- Explain what the people of London did during the great fire.
- Explain the impact that the fire had.
- Explain why people like Samuel Pepys were important.
- Empathise with the people who were in the fire.

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1. What country is London in?

2. When did the Great Fire of London happen?

3. Who was Samuel Pepys?

4. Who was the king at the time of the Great Fire of London?

5. Why did the fire spread so quickly?

6. How was the fire stopped?
