

Knowledge Organiser - Year 2— History: Great Fire of London

Key Question — Why was it a “Great Fire” of London?



Happening At This Time

English Civil War	Robert Hooke discovers cells using a microscope	Isaac Newton discovers gravity	The Great Plague Outbreak
1642-1651	1663	1666	1665

Great Fire Timeline

Date	Key Events— September 1666
Sunday 2nd	A fire breaks out in Thomas Farriner’s bakery, just after midnight.
Sunday 2nd (afternoon)	The fire spread quickly, due to the lack of action from the Lord Mayor who failed to demolish the adjoining houses
Monday 3rd	The fire continues to spread, reaching the financial district and a Royal Palace.
Tuesday 4th	The worst day of destruction, reaching St Paul’s Cathedral & narrowly avoiding the Tower of London
Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th	By the Tuesday evening the wind had dropped and the fire began to become under control.

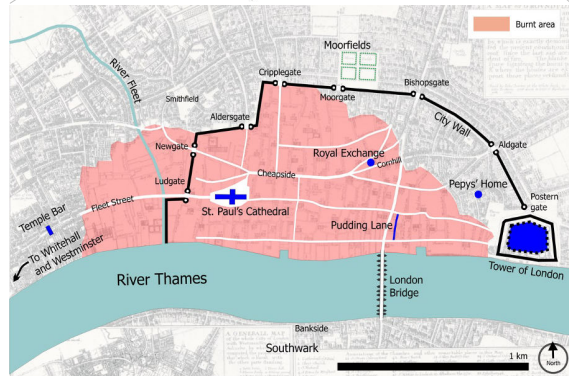
Causes of The Great Fire Spreading

- Buildings mostly made of wood, straw and pitch (highly flammable materials)
- Buildings were very close together—meaning the flames did not have far to travel.
- The previous summer had been very hot with little rain so buildings caught fire easily.
- People use fire to cook and for light.
- There was a strong wind that blew the flames across from building to building.
- Fire fighting equipment and facilities were limited and not very effective

Impact of The Great Fire

Cleaner Living conditions	The fire burnt away dirty, overcrowded buildings and allowed new cleaner, more spacious roads and buildings to be built.
Fire Brigade	Set up after the fire by property insurance companies.
Regeneration of London	The King wanted to rebuild London after the fire, improving it with wide streets, beautiful parks and no overcrowding.
Safer buildings	Rules introduced in 1688 stated that buildings had to be made of

Where in the world was it?



Key People

Christopher Wren	Famous architect, responsible for re-building London after the fire, including St Paul’s Cathedral, a range of churches and the Monument
John Evelyn	English writer, who kept a record of events of the Fire.
King Charles II	King of England, was directly involved in the fire fighting
Samuel Pepys	An administrator of the navy of England and Member of Parliament who is most famous for the diary he kept for a decade while still a relatively young man.
Thomas Farriner	A baker in London, at whose bakery the fire began, in Pudding Lane. The oven fire was left burning overnight.
Thomas Bloodworth	Lord Mayor of London, blamed for allowing the fire to spread by not permitting adjoining buildings to be pulled down or demolished.

Key Places

London	Capital city of England, home of the King and where the fire spread in 1666.
Monument	Tall column in London, designed by Christopher Wren to commemorate where the Great Fire began. It is 62m high, the distance it is from the location of the bakery.
Pudding Lane	Location of the bakery where the fire started, and spread from.
River Thames	Flows through London and acted as a natural barrier to the fire
St. Paul’s Cathedral	A key religious building of London, thought undamageable by the Fire and used to store precious items. It was destroyed and

Key Concepts

Community	All the people who live or work in a particular area or place, who support each other when needed.
Sources	Primary sources provide a first-hand account of an event or time period. Secondary sources are where someone has written or spoken about a primary source.

Key Vocabulary

Cathedral	Flammable	Fire-break	Monarch	Monument	Pitch	Plague	Timber
Largest, most important church in an area for Christians	Will set on fire easily.	Obstacle to the spread of fire, such as an open space	King or Queen	Statue, building, or other structure to commemorate a person or event.	Black, tar-like substance used in building construction.	Disease caused by bites from fleas carrying a type of bacteria.	Wood



Tools used to try and stop the fire spreading.

