

What are we building on?

The Great Fire of London started in the early hours of the morning of 2 September 1666, in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane. By 5 September the fire had destroyed more than 13,000 houses and buildings in the city, including 87 churches and the famous St Paul's Cathedral. The fire spread quickly, destroying most of the buildings in its path. The way houses were built, the lack of an effective and organised firefighting service and the weather in the days before, all played their part in this terrible event.

When and where did the fire start? The fire of London started in a bakery in Pudding Lane on 2nd September 1666.

Why did the fire spread? It hadn't rained for months so the city was very dry. In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood which burns easily. Houses were built too close together and there was no organised fire brigade.

How did they fight the fire? They used leather buckets and squirts filled with water, axes, fire hooks and gun powder to make fire breaks.

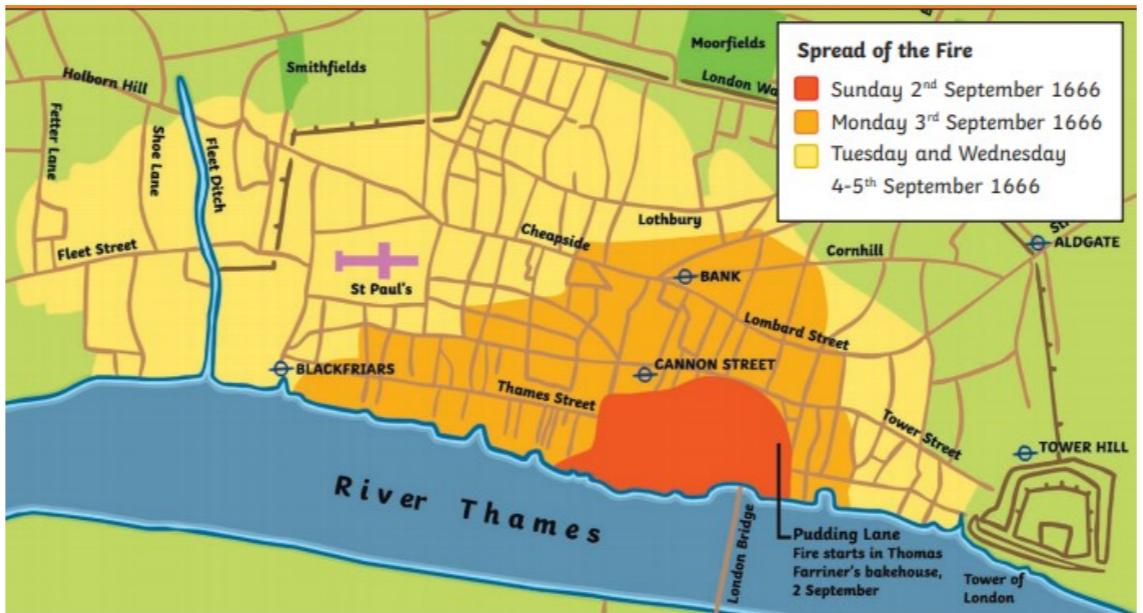
How did the Fire stop? The fire burned for 4 days. As the wind died down and changed direction the fire became under control and was finally put out.

What should we know?

- How the fire started and the effect it had on daily lives.
- Where London is and where people moved to after the fire.
- What the name of the writer whose diaries tell us more about the events of the fire.
- Why the Great Fire of London was a significant event.

The Great Fire of London

Where the fire spread



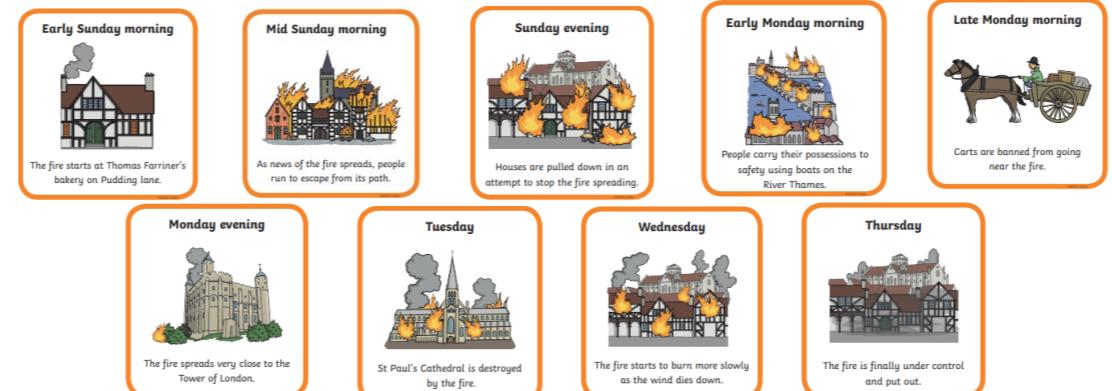
Significant People

Thomas Farriner An ember from one of Thomas' bakery ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.



Samuel Pepys One of the ways we know about the fire is because people wrote about it in their own personal diaries. Samuel Pepys was famous for his diary he wrote in the 17th century.

King Charles II King of England in 1666. After the fire he made a decree that houses must be built further apart and built from stone not timber.



Key Words

Thatched roofs	A house made with straw
Leather buckets	Leather is made from animal skins
Fire hooks	A hook that is used to pull down walls and buildings.
Tallow	Animal fat used to make candles and soap.
Rubble	Left over bits of wood or stone after a building is destroyed.
Bakery	A place where bread or cakes are made and sold.
Eye-witness	A person who has seen something and can give you a description of it.
Embers	Small pieces of glowing coal or wood seen in a dying fire.
Flammable	When something burns easily.
Congested	Crowded and blocked.

Timeline of events

Sunday 2nd September 1666 A fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. As news of the fire spreads, people run to escape its path.

Monday 3rd September 1666 Fire-fighters try to tackle the fire but it spreads quickly. People carry their possessions to safety using a horse and cart or boats on the River Thames.

Tuesday 4th September 1666 Houses are pulled down in an attempt to stop the fire spreading. St. Paul's Cathedral is destroyed.

Wednesday 5th September 1666 The fire starts to burn more slowly as the wind dies down.

Thursday 6th September 1666 The fire is finally under control and put out. People are left homeless.