

Year 2 - FIRE FIRE Knowledge Organiser

Key information

The fire of London started on 2nd September 1666 and lasted for 5 days.

This event holds significance as it was both traumatic and disastrous.

It also marks the importance of community spirit when London was rebuilt after the disaster.



Timeline of events

2nd September 1666 – 1:30am: A fire started in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane in the middle of the night. The fire probably came from the oven.

2nd September 1666- 7am

Samuel Pepys woke up and found out that the fire had already burnt down 300 houses.

3rd September 1666 – People tried to put the fire out using leather buckets of water and then pulling down houses with fire hooks. They hoped this would make a fire break but the fire kept on spreading.

4th September 1666 – St Paul's Cathedral

Key Vocabulary

Bakery: a shop where bread and cakes are made.

Oven: a place where food is cooked. Today we use gas or electricity to heat ovens but in 1666 they burnt wood to heat the oven.

Leather bucket: Leather is a material and was what buckets were made from before plastic was invented.

Fire hooks: Giant hooks used to pull houses down.

Fire break: When buildings are destroyed to make a break so the fire can't spread to the next building.

St Paul's Cathedral: A famous Christian church which burnt down during the fire. It was rebuilt by Christopher Wren and still exists today.

Samuel Pepys (1633-1703)

Samuel Pepys was an administrator in the Royal Navy and a Member of Parliament. He was the most famous for the diary he kept which detailed the Great Fire of London.

Pepys was woken up by his servant after the fire spread. He immediately went to the Tower of London to get a better view.

He took a boat out onto the River Thames and observed the fire for over an hour.



