

The Great Fire of London



Curriculum Links:

- Events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally
- The lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements

Key Facts:

- A fire started at Thomas Farriner's bakery in Pudding Lane on 2nd September 1666.
- The fire spread quickly because many houses were made from wood, they were built too close together and there was no organised fire service. It also hadn't rained for months so London was very dry.
- The fire burned for 4 days. When the wind died down and changed direction the fire became under control and was put out.
- 6 people died as a result of the fire. Thomas Farriner's maid was the first person to die as she was too scared to jump out of the building.
- 13,200 houses were destroyed and over 70,000 people became homeless.
- On the 4th September, St Paul's Cathedral was burnt down /
- Charles II was King in 1666, after the fire he made a decree which stated that houses must be built from stone and be further apart.
- Samuel Pepys was in London when the fire happened, he wrote a diary about what was happening, this is one of the main ways we now know about the fire.



Key Vocabulary

Decree	An official order by law
Eyewitness	A person who has seen something happen and gives a first-hand description of it
Firebreak	A strip of land where trees/buildings have been removed to stop a fire spreading
Fire Hooks	A strong iron hook used to tear away burning timbers etc
St Paul's Cathedral	A large church in London which was burnt down

Possible trips/visits: We should already know:

- * London - Monument, Pudding Lane, St Paul's
- * Kent Firefighting Museum
- Make comments about familiar situations in the past
- Identify similarities and differences about the past
- That some environments are different