

The Great Fire of London

2nd September 1666

A fire starts in Thomas Farynor's bakery on Pudding Lane

2nd September 1666

7am Sameuel Pepys wakes and finds out that the fire has already burnt down 300 houses and starts to write a diary.

3rd September 1666

People tried to put the fire out using buckets of water. Later they pulled down houses creating a fire break to stop the fire spreading.

4th September 1666

St Pauls's Cathedral burns down

6th September 1666

The Fire of London finally stops but many people are left homeless.

Key Vocab

Pitch	A tar like substance that protects wood from water damage
Bakery	A place where bread or cakes are made and sold
Diary	A personal record of life's events
Eye witness	A person who has seen something and can give a description of it
Source of fire	Where it started
Evidence	Anything that you see, experience, read, or are told that causes you to believe that something is true or has really happened.
Source of evidence	Where the evidence came from
River Thames	The main river which runs through London
St. Paul's Cathedral	One of the largest churches in the world. It is located within the City of London on Ludgate Hill, the City's highest point
Firebreak	An area of land that has had plants, trees or buildings removed to stop the spread of a fire
Monarch	A person who reigns over a kingdom or empire
Monument	a structure (as a building, stone, or statue) made to keep alive the memory of a person or event

Great Fire of London 1666

The Fire of London started on 2nd September 1666 and lasted for 5 days. The weather in London was hot and it hadn't rained for 10 months.

Houses in London were mainly built from wood, straw and pitch which are flammable, especially when it is dry. The houses were also very close together, so the fire could easily spread. People used fire to cook and for light.



The fire spread because:

The materials the houses were made of were flammable
The houses were very close together
The weather was very hot and dry
There was a strong wind which helped the fire to spread

How did they try to stop the fire?

Buildings were pulled down with fire hooks to create a fire-break
People used simple firefighting equipment, including buckets of water
The River Thames stopped the fire spreading to the south



What happened afterwards?

King Charles II decided he wanted to rebuild London and improve it

New rules were put in place that said buildings had to be made of stone and brick

The London Fire Brigade was set up

A monument was built to remember what happened and the people who died