

The Great Fire of London 1666

The Great Fire of London is one of the most well-known disasters in London's history. It swept through the central parts of the city from Sunday, 2 September to Thursday, 6 September 1666. 436 acres of London were destroyed, including 13,200 houses and 87 out of 109 churches.

Our big concepts: Community, duty and service

Our big question: How do communities support each other?

Important People:

King Charles II

The king of England 1660 to 1685. He was king during the Great Fire. He created rules to make sure London was rebuilt in a safer way.



Samuel Pepys

He is most famous for the diary he kept during the Great Fire of London. His diary gives us an eyewitness account of the fire.



Sir Christopher Wren

He was put in charge of rebuilding St Paul's Cathedral and 51 other churches after they were destroyed in the Great Fire.



Thomas Farriner

He owned the bakery in Pudding Lane where the fire started. Why do think that portraits of him are not available?

Important Vocabulary:



diary

A book where you write about things that happen to you each day.



thatched roof

A thatched roof is made from straw and is layered to make it waterproof.



water squirt

A pump used to suck up water and squirt it at the fire. They were large and heavy!



fire hook

Metal fire hooks were used to tear down the houses that were on fire.



leather bucket

Leather buckets were filled with water from the Thames to put the fire out.

eyewitness

Someone who sees something happening with their own eyes.

possessions

The things that people own.

ruins

What remains of a building after a disaster.

disaster

Something that causes terrible damage such as a fire or a flood.

monument

A type of structure to remember a person or event.

Important Places:



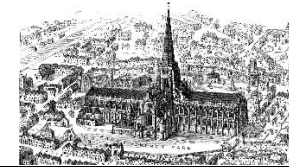
City of London



Pudding Lane



London Bridge



St Paul's Cathedral



The Tower of London



Can you see the differences between London in the 1600s and now in 2019? Why are there not any photographs of London in 1666?

Important events:

**Sunday 2nd September
1666 - 6am**

300 houses had been destroyed by the fire.

**Tuesday 4th September
1666 - 5pm**

The roof of St Paul's Cathedral caught alight and molten lead from the roof ran down the streets.

**Wednesday 5th September
1666 - 12pm**

A number of houses were pulled down near the Tower of London using fire hooks and gunpowder. This stopped the spread of the fire.

**Thursday 6th September
1666 - 6am**

The fire was finally extinguished. 87 churches including St Paul's Cathedral and 13,200 houses had been destroyed. Only 6 people died.

**Sunday 2nd September
1666 - 1am**

Fire broke out in the house of baker Thomas Farriner on Pudding Lane.

**Monday 3rd September
1666**

The fire continued to spread due to hot, dry and windy weather conditions.

**Tuesday 4th September
1666 - 7pm**

St Paul's Cathedral had been completely destroyed by the fire.

**Wednesday 5th September
1666 - 4pm**

The wind finally dropped and the spread of the fire was halted.