



Year 2: History Knowledge Organiser

What was the Great Fire of London?

It was a major fire that swept through London from Sunday 2nd September to Thursday 6th September 1666.

How did the fire start?

The fire started around 1am in the morning in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. The most likely cause was a spark from the oven falling onto something close by, probably flower sacks that were laying close by.

Why did the fire spread so quickly?

- It had been a long, dry summer.
- Houses at the time were made of wood and were built very close together.
- A strong wind helped to blow the fire across the houses.
- The area was filled with flammable materials like timber and oil.
- There was no fire service to put out the fire.

How many people died?

Only 6 people died but tens of thousands of houses were destroyed.

How do we know about it?

People wrote about it in newspapers and letters (for example Samuel Pepys' diary). Also artists who were around at the time painted pictures of how they remembered it.

Vocabulary

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.

Fire Squirts



These were used to squirt water onto the fire.

Important people



Samuel Pepys

He was a naval officer who wrote the most complete account of the fire in his diaries.



Thomas Farriner

The owner of the bakery on Pudding Lane, where the fire started.



King Charles II

Charles II was the King of England at the time of the fire.



Christopher Wren

The architect who redesigned St. Paul's Cathedral after it was destroyed by the fire.



