

Year 2 Knowledge Organiser - Spring Term - The Great Fire of London



What key facts and dates will we be learning?

The Fire of London started on 2- September 1666 and lasted for 5 days.

The weather in London was hot and hadn't rained for months. Houses in London were mainly built from wood which is flammable, especially when it is very dry. The houses were also very close together, so fire could easily spread.

2- September 1666 - 1.30am: A fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane in the middle of the night. The fire probably came from the oven.

2- September 1666 - 7am: Samuel Pepys wakes up and finds out that the fire had already burnt down 300 houses!

3- September 1666 - The firemen try to put the fire out by using leather buckets of water and then pulling down houses with fire hooks. They hope this will make a fire break but the fire keeps on spreading.

4- September 1666 - St Paul's Cathedral burns down.

6- September 1666 - The Fire of London finally stops but many people are left homeless because their houses are burnt down.

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.

Flammable: when something burns easily.

King Charles II: the King of England in 1666.

Samuel Pepys: a famous man who wrote a diary about the fire.

Eyewitness: a person who saw an event and can therefore describe it.

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

Tower of London: Where the King lived in 1666. It did not catch fire because the fire was stopped just before it reached the place.