

## Knowledge Organiser for Year 2 History– Great Fire of London

**Big question:** Why did the great Fire of London spread so far & so fast?

### National curriculum specification

- Identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods.
- Explore events beyond living memory... reveal a change in national life.
- stories and other sources to show they understand key features of events
- Look at “significant historical events, people and places” in Britain

### Timeline of key events

2 <sup>nd</sup> September 1666– 1:30am	Fire starts in Thomas Faryner’s bakery on Pudding Lane in the middle of the night. The fire probably came from the oven.
2 <sup>nd</sup> September 1666– 3am	Lord Mayor goes to inspect the fire but decides it is not too bad so goes back to bed.
2 <sup>nd</sup> September 1666– 7am	Samuel Pepys wake sup to find 300 houses already burnt down.
3 <sup>rd</sup> September 1666	Firemen try to put the fire out using leather buckets of water and then by pulling buildings down with fire hooks. They hope this will make a fire break, but the fire keeps spreading.
4 <sup>th</sup> September 1666	The fire reaches its peak. St Pauls Cathedral burns down. 11pm, the wind dies down.
5 <sup>th</sup> September 1666	The wind changes direction.
6 <sup>th</sup> September 1666	The fire finally stops but many people are left homeless because their houses burnt down.

### Key facts/figures

13000	Houses destroyed
6	People were recorded as dying in the fire

### Key places/ people

London	Capital city of England
Thames	River that flows through London
Charles II	King of England
Samuel Pepys	A famous man who wrote a diary about the fire
St Pauls Cathedral	A famous Christian place of worship. It burnt down in the fire but was rebuilt & still exists today
Tower of London	Where King Charles lived in 1666. It did not burn down in the fire. The fire stopped before it reached here.

### Key vocabulary/Tier 3

Bakery	A shop where bread and cakes are made.
Leather bucket	Leather is a material and is 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 gap so the fire can't spread to the next building.
Flammable	when something burns easily.
Eyewitness	a person who saw an event and can therefore describe it.
Water squirt	Hand held fire pump
Thatched roof	Dried straw tied tightly together and laid on the roof of a building
Gun powder	Explosive powder

### Key concepts

The Fire of London started on 2nd 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.

