

# The Great Fire of London

YEAR 1 | SPRING 1

## OVERVIEW

The Fire of London started on 2nd September 1666 and lasted for 5 days. The weather in London was hot and had not 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.

## KEY PEOPLE



**Thomas Farriner**  
The owner of the bakery on Pudding Lane where the fire started.



**Molly Williams**  
The first known female firefighter; she helped to put out the fire.



**King Charles II**  
The King who was in thrown (1660-1685) at the time of the fire.



**Mayor Bloodworth**  
The Lord Mayor of London at the time of the fire. Disliked by many for not helping more.



**Mrs Andrews**  
Campaigner for better pay and treatment from the government after the fire.



**Samuel Pepys**  
Worked in the navy and as a parliamentarian; his diary describes the Fire of London.

13,200

The number of houses burned in the fire.

100

The number of houses burning per hour at the peak of the fire.

100,000

The number of people left homeless by the fire.

5

The number of days the fire lasted for.

6

The number of people who were officially recorded to have died in the fire.

## KEY VOCABULARY



SQUIRT

Used to put water on the fire



LEATHER BUCKET

Used to carry water



FIRE EMBER

A small piece of glowing coal or wood in a dying fire



FIRE HOOKS

Used to pull down burning buildings



WATTLE & DAUB

Animal waste, straw and mud used to make building walls.

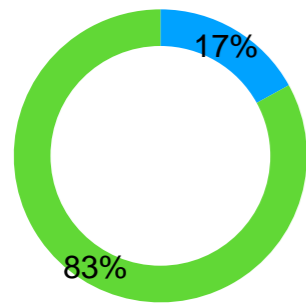
## TIMELINE

What happened in the week of the fire?



## FACTS

■ Not Burned ■ Burned



50% of people could afford to eat meat every day.

Robert Hubert was falsely accused of, and killed for, starting the fire.

Nearly half of people died before they were 16.

Thomas Farriner's maid was the first to die in the fire. She was too scared to jump out of the window.

## KEY PLACES



### St. Paul's Cathedral

The cathedral burned to the ground and was then rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren.



### Tower of London

This is where rich people deposited their valuables. Many people escaped to the tower when the fire spread.



### London Bridge

This bridge was the only crossing over the River Thames in the City of London.

## CAUSES

### DRY SUMMER

It had not rained for months so the city was very dry and the wind blew the fire to nearby buildings.

### WOODEN HOUSES

Houses were made of wood which burns easily.

### HOUSES CLOSE TOGETHER

Houses were built very close together so the fire spread quickly.

### NO FIRE BRIGADE

They had only very basic ways to put out fires like fire squirts and buckets of water.

### FIRE SAFETY

Bakers did not put out the fire embers at the end of the day.

## CONSEQUENCES



### HOMELESS

Many people were left without homes, sleeping in tents and left forever.



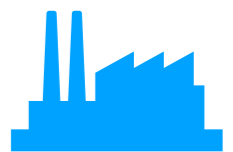
### FIRE BRIGADE

A fire brigade was established for the first time.



### NEW BUILDINGS RULES

King Charles introduced new rules about how buildings should be built.



### LONDON REDESIGNED

Sir Christopher Wren redesigned the City of London.

## EVIDENCE: PRIMARY SOURCES

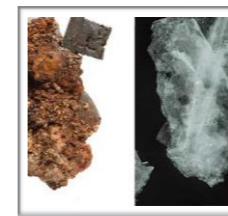
HOW CAN WE KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?



Diaries



Art



Artefacts



Documents



Newspapers



Letters



### Museum of London

Articles, artefacts and games to learn about the famous fire.



### BBC Teach

Watch the events before, during and after the fire.



### Fire of London Game

Help Jane and Tom through six dramatic days around the fire.



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