

History Knowledge Organiser KS1 'The Great Fire of London'

Know how to...

- Place the Great Fire on a time line and sequence the main events of the fire correctly.
- Know why the fire started and what happened.
- Understand why it ended and some of the results.
- Know that the fire was represented in different ways.
- Understand what information about the fire contemporary pictures and Pepys' diary can provide.

Key People

	Thomas Farriner	An ember from one of Thomas' bakery ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.
	Samuel Pepys	One of the ways we know about the fire is because people wrote about it in their own personal diary.
	King Charles II	Charles II was the King of England in 1666. After the fire, he made a decree that houses must be built further apart and built from stone not timber.



Key Places and Vocabulary



bakery	A place where bread or cakes are made and sold.
London	The capital city of England and the United Kingdom.
River Thames	Many people got a boat on the River Thames to escape the fire.
diary	A personal record of life's events.
eye-witness	A person who has seen something and can give a description of it.
embers	Small pieces of glowing coal or wood in a dying fire.
fire-hooks	Giant hooks used to pull down houses.
fire-break	When buildings are destroyed to make a gap so the fire can't spread.
flammable	When something burns easily.
St Paul's Cathedral	A Christian building razed to the ground in the fire and rebuilt using designs by Sir Christopher Wren

History Knowledge Organiser KS1 'The Great Fire of London'

Key Questions and Facts

When and where did the fire start?	The fire of London started in a bakery in Pudding Lane on 2nd September 1666.
Why did the fire spread?	It hadn't rained for months so the city was very dry. In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood which burns easily. Houses were built too close together and there was no organised fire brigade.
How did they fight the fire?	They used leather buckets and squirts filled with water, axes, fire-hooks and gunpowder to make fire-breaks.
How did the fire stop?	The fire burned for 4 days. As the wind died down and changed direction the fire became under control and was finally put out.
How many people died?	6 people died as a result of the fire. Thomas Farriner's maid was the first person to die because she was too scared to jump from the burning building.
What happened after the fire?	13,200 houses were destroyed by the fire and 70,000 people were left homeless. Many left London to live elsewhere and some slept in tents.



How London took shape

It took nearly fifty years to rebuild the burnt area of the city, with 85 churches including St Paul's Cathedral destroyed.

Parliament enforced new guidelines for the rebuilding of the city, including wider roads and the construction of houses from brick and stone rather than timber.

The task of rebuilding the city was given to a committee, including Sir Christopher Wren, who designed the new St Paul's Cathedral and The Monument – built to commemorate the Great Fire of London and to celebrate the rebuilding of the City.

