

Fire! Fire!: The Great Fire of London 1666

Timeline

<b>2nd September 1666 AD</b>	The fire started at 1 a.m. Mid-morning: Samuel Pepys started to write about the fire in his diary.
<b>3rd September 1666 AD</b>	The fire got very close to the Tower of London.
<b>4th September 1666 AD</b>	St Paul's Cathedral was destroyed by the fire.
<b>5th September 1666 AD</b>	The wind died down and the fire spread more slowly.
<b>6th September 1666 AD</b>	The fire was finally put out. Thousands of people were left homeless.

Key People

<b>Samuel Pepys</b>	Famous for keeping a diary during the Great Fire of London in 1666. He played an important part in helping to fight the fire by warning King Charles II that more needed to be done on the day the fire broke out.
<b>King Charles II</b>	Ruled from 1660-1685 and was king during the Great Fire of London. He helped the fire fighters and gave rewards to people who tried to stop the fire.
<b>Thomas Farriner</b>	Owned a business - a bakery where the fire started.

Key Vocabulary

<b>decade</b>	Period of 10 years.
<b>century</b>	Period of 100 years.
<b>thatched</b>	Straw used as a roofing material.
<b>timber</b>	Wood to build houses and other buildings.
<b>cobbles</b>	Small round stones tused to cover road surfaces.
<b>firebreak</b>	An obstacle or way to fight/slow down fires .
<b>bakery</b>	A place that makes cakes and bread.
<b>bucket</b>	Usually a round container with a handle for holding or carrying liquids e.g. water.
<b>account</b>	Report or description of an event.
<b>diary</b>	Book written about daily events and experiences.
<b>perspective</b>	The way you see or view something.
<b>evidence</b>	Facts that show something is true.
<b>reliable</b>	Information that can be trusted.

What else was going on in the World?

<b>1604 AD</b>	Robert Catesby, Guy Fawkes, Thomas Percy, and five of their friends began a plot to kill King James I and his government by blowing up the Houses of Parliament.
<b>1605 AD</b>	Guy Fawkes was found in the cellar with 36 barrels of gunpowder by the king's guards.



When, where and why did the fire start?

The fire started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. The fire used for baking was not put out properly.

In 1666, the buildings in London were made of wood and straw and they were very close together, making it easy for the flames to spread. It had also been a dry summer, so the buildings were dry. Strong winds were blowing, which helped the flames to spread.

How did people try to put the fire out?

People used leather buckets of water to put the fire out, but this did not work. Later in the week, King Charles II ordered buildings to be pulled down to stop the flames from spreading.

By Thursday 6th September, the wind had died down. This meant that people were able to put out the flames. Interestingly, the fire helped end the plague by killing rats and fleas, which carried disease.

