



Year 2

The Great Fire of London

Builds on Knowledge and Skills

- About other significant events such as The Gun Powder Plot, The Moon Landings and Armistice Day
- How to use sources such as photographs, text from the time, art and artefacts to learn about the past.
- Significant people such as Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus.
- Changes within living memory.
- Comparing people and events in history.

Vocabulary you will use:

Word	Definition
decades	Periods of ten years
congested	Crowded and blocked
flammable	Easily set on fire
architects	People who design buildings
eyewitness	A person who was at an event and describes it to others
extract	A short passage
outbreak	When a disease suddenly starts again
source	Evidence from the past we can learn from
fire hook	Hooks used to pull down buildings

Books, texts, primary and secondary sources you may use:

- The Great Fire of London – Collins Big Cat
- The Story of the Great Fire of London – Raintree publishers
- The Great Plague – Tim Vicary
- Tragedy in London: Plague and Fire – Collins Big Cat
- Samuel Pepys diary written in 1665

Suggested family experience – In London, you could visit Pudding Lane, St Paul’s Cathedral and The Great Fire of London Monument.

Websites to have a look at:

- [London Fire Brigade Museum](#)
- [Museum of London](#)
- [BBC Teach](#)

National Curriculum:

- Events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally [For example the Great Fire of London]

Local:

During 1666, the Plague had taken hold of London killing up to 200,000 people. It was an incurable disease spread by fleas that lived on rats.

However this was not the case here in Jersey. In 1666 Jersey was preparing for a French invasion after Louis XIV declared war with England, but peace was agreed before the invasion took place.

National:

In 1666 in London, there was the Plague and the Great Fire of London which were nationally significant events. The Great Fire of London, helped to end the Plague.

International:

The plague had a large scale social and economic effect on the world due to the large number of people who died from it. There was a shortage of labourers which ruined landowners.



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Sources: Photograph gallery

Quick Summary

London was suffering with the Plague which spread for the second time in history in 1664. Many people were dying and doctors were unable to prevent the spread of disease. The Great Fire of London started in the early hours of the morning of 2 September 1666, in a baker’s shop on Pudding Lane. By 5 September, the fire had destroyed more than 13,000 houses and buildings in the city, including 87 churches and the famous St Paul’s Cathedral. The fire spread quickly, destroying most of the buildings in its path. The way houses were built, the lack of an effective and organised firefighting service and the weather in the days before, all played their part in this terrible event. Once the fire was out, the Plague had been wiped out because the rats that carried the disease were destroyed in the fire.

Main Events

- **2 September 1666 CE:** Fire broke out in a bakery on Pudding Lane
- **3 September:** People started to leave the city, many by boats on the Thames
- **4 September:** The fire was so great it could be seen as far away as Oxford
- **5 September:** Wind died down and fire stopped spreading

Questions we’ll ask you throughout the unit to check your knowledge and understanding.

Explain some reasons why the Great Fire of London was so big and spread so quickly.

Explain why the Great Fire of London was a significant event.

Why did the King want the city to be rebuilt in stone?

Draw a timeline with key events from the fire.

The fire was a good thing to happen. Discuss

Life at the time

Doors were marked with a cross to show that the Plague was in the house. People avoided these houses. There were strict rules in place to try to stop the spread by humans.

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1. The Plague spread to Europe in 1347.
2. Plague first struck England in 1348.
3. It arrived in Halesowen in 1349
4. Plague returned to London in 1664.
5. It spread through London until 1666



Samuel Pepys survived and wrote a diary which we can learn about the Plague and the Great fire of London.



London in



Y1 Knowledge link
Christopher Columbus' travels are thought to have spread disease across the world. Ships brought infected rats from other countries!

2nd September 1666 - a fire broke out in a bakery on Pudding Lane.

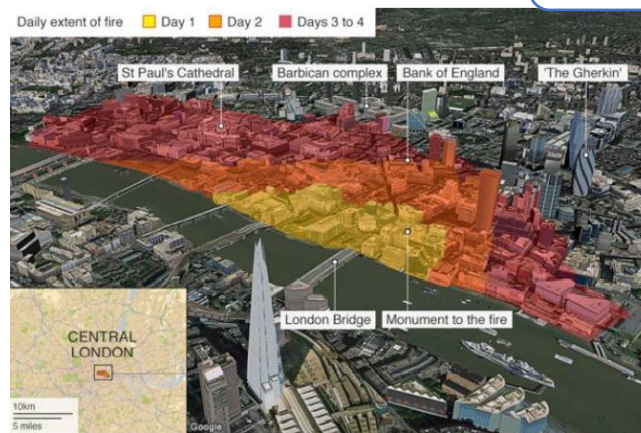
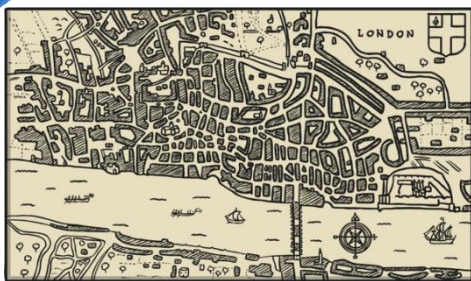
4th September - the fire was so great it could be seen as far away as Oxford. 13,200 houses and 87 churches, including St Paul's Cathedral, were destroyed in the Great Fire.

Some doctors blamed poisonous air, which they said infected people. However, the plague was actually spread by rats.

Why did the Great Fire of London

3rd September - people started to leave the city, many by boat on the Thames.

5th September - the wind died down and the fire stopped spreading.



Key learning:

- How the fire started.

Pudding Lane

London

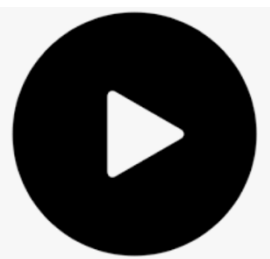
Modern London and the location of the Great Fire



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Why did the Great Fire of London happen?

What happened



Click

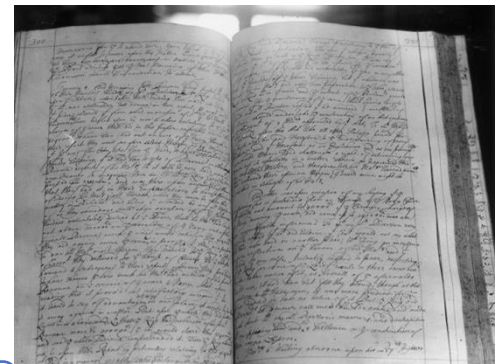
An eyewitness, Samuel Pepys, wrote a recount of the fire in his famous diary. Extracts from his diary help us to learn more about how the fire started, what was done to try and stop it, and what happened afterwards.



A leather fire



King



Key learning:

- How houses were built helped the fire grow.
- How the fire started and spread

Did you know?

- Samuel Pepys travelled to meet the King to warn him. King Charles sent Samuel to order the Mayor to pull down houses to stop the spread of fire.
- People escaped with their precious possessions or buried them until the fire was out. Samuel Pepys buried cheese and wine!



What happened

When the great fire was over, King Charles II ordered the city to be rebuilt with brick and stone. Famous architects drew plans for the rebuilding project, including Christopher Wren who designed St Paul's Cathedral. It took 35 years to build.

Key learning:

- 13000 houses and 87 churches were destroyed!
- King Charles changed the way buildings were made to stop this from happening again.
- A monument was built to remember the fire - it still stands today near pudding lane.



Wren designed a dome instead of a steeple.



Christopher Wren

He was an architect who designed and built the new St Paul's Cathedral and a monument to remember the fire.

Did you know?

If you lay the monument down in its location it is the exact height to touch the place where the fire started!

