

Year 2: History

We are learning about... The Great Fire of London



What we need to know?

Must: I must know the key people, events and vocabulary.

Should: I should know the order of the events. I should be able to explain why the Great Fire of London was such a significant historical event.

Could: I could find out some extra fascinating facts.

Going the Extra Mile...

- 1) Make a timeline of the events.
- 2) Write a mini non-fiction book about The Great Fire of London.
- 3) Imagine you were in London at the time of the fire and write your own diary entry.
- 4) Create your own artwork illustrating 'The Great Fire of London'.
- 5) Write facts about Samuel Pepys.
- 6) You could even write a song or a rap!



Useful Websites

BBC Bitesize:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zdyhn9q/articles/z4msn9q>

Look out for 'to dos' on Purple Mash too.

Remember to ask an adult before you go online.

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

Key Questions and Facts	
When and where did the fire start?	The fire of London started in a bakery in Pudding Lane on 2 nd 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.

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.