

# The Great Fire of London

## What key facts and dates will we be learning?

The Fire of London started on 2nd September 1666 and lasted for 5 days.

The weather in London was hot and it hadn't rained for 10 months. Houses in London were mainly built from wood and straw which is flammable, especially when it is dry. The houses were also very close together, so the fire could easily spread.



## Timeline

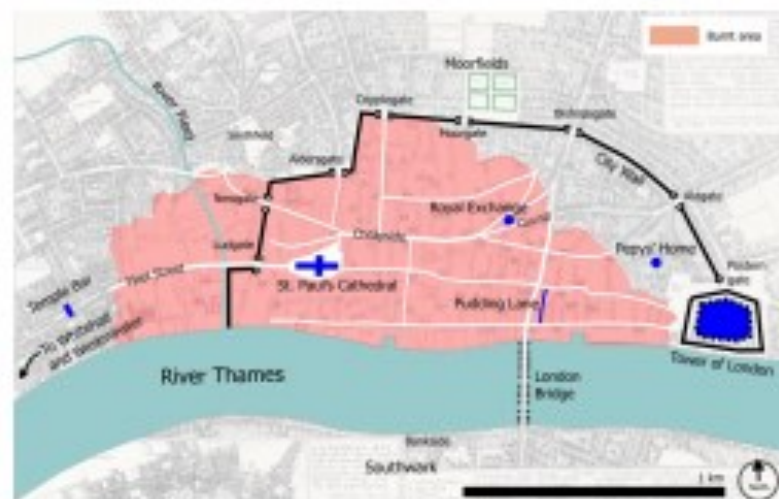
**2nd September 1666 - 1:30 am:** A fire starts in Thomas Faryner's bakery on Pudding Lane in the middle of the night. The fire probably came from the oven.

**2nd September 1666 - 7 am:** Samuel Pepys wakes up and finds out that the fire has already burnt down 300 houses!

**3rd September 1666** - The firemen try to put the fire out using leather buckets of water and then by pulling down houses with fire hooks. They hope this will make a fire break but the fire keeps on spreading.

**4th September 1666** - St Paul's Cathedral burns down.

**6th September 1666** - The Fire of London finally stops but many people are left homeless because their houses burnt down.



## Key people, places and words

**Thomas Faryner** : owner of the bakery where the fire started.

**Samuel Pepys** : a famous man who wrote a diary about the fire.

**King Charles II** : the King of England in 1666.

**Christopher Wren** : the man who designed new buildings and a monument to the fire.

**Pudding Lane** : the street on which the bakery was, where the fire started.

**St Paul's Cathedral** : a famous church which burnt down during the fire. It was rebuilt and still exists today.

**Tower of London** : where the king lived in 1666. It did not catch fire because the fire was stopped just before it reached the palace.

**Bakery** : a shop where bread and cakes are made.

**Oven** : where food is cooked. Today we use gas or electricity to heat ovens but in 1666 they burnt wood to heat the oven.

**Flammable** : when something burns easily.

**Eyewitness** : a person who saw an event with their own eyes and can therefore describe it.

**Leather bucket** : leather is the material that buckets were made from before plastic was invented.

**Fire Hooks** : giant hooks used to pull houses down.

**Fire Breaks** : when buildings are destroyed on purpose to make a gap (break) so the fire can't spread to the next building.

