

# Knowledge Organiser - The Great Fire of London

## Timeline of Events

### The Great Fire of London

KS1

**Monday 3rd September 1666**

The fire gets very close to the Tower of London.

**Tuesday 4th September 1666**

**St Paul's Cathedral** is destroyed by the fire.

Timeline of Events

**Sunday 2nd September 1666**

The fire starts at 1 a.m.

Mid-morning: Samuel Pepys starts to write about the fire in his **diary**.

**Wednesday 5th September 1666**

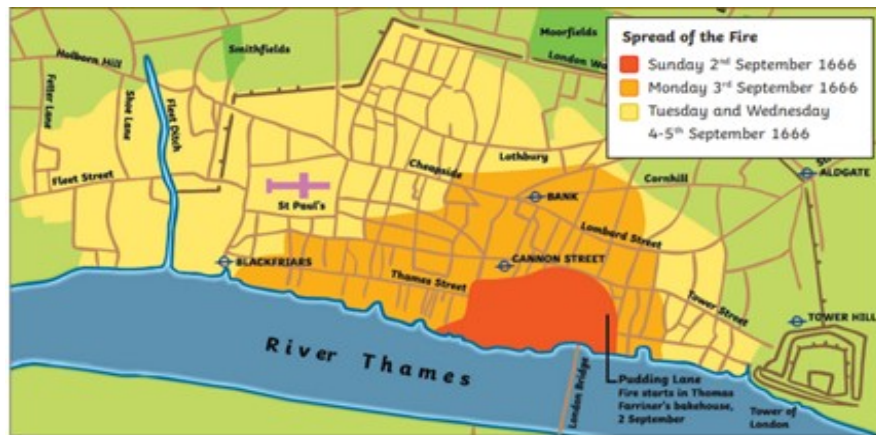
The wind dies down and the fire spreads more slowly.

**Thursday 6th September 1666**

The fire is finally put out.

Thousands of people are left homeless.

## Where did the fire spread?



There is no doubt that the Great Fire was an awful tragedy - but it did lead to some positive changes to London. The city was rebuilt in a safer and more organised way, so that such a disaster would not happen again. Streets were made wider, and buildings were made from brick or stone (rather than wood), with better access to water. What's more, London's first fire brigades were formed to tackle any future blazes that might break out.

## Vocabulary/Terminology

**bakery-** a place that makes bread/cakes etc.

**St Paul's Cathedral-** a very large church in London. A new St Paul's Cathedral was built after the Great Fire of London happened.

**diary-** a book that people write about their lives in.

**firebreak-** a gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings.

## Important People



Samuel Pepys



King Charles II

## Key Facts—The Great Fire of London

### When and where did the fire start?

The fire started on 2nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane.

### Why did the fire start?

The fires used for baking were not put out properly.

### Why did the fire spread so quickly?

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 and water squirts to try to put the fire out, but these did not work. Later in the week, King Charles II ordered buildings to be pulled down to stop the flames from spreading.

### How and when was the fire put out?

By Thursday 6th September, the wind had died down. This meant that people were able to put out the flames.