

Knowledge about Great Fire of London

- ☐ London is the capital city of the UK. It is the place in the country where the government are. Stafford is in the middle of England where as London is in the South East.
- ☐ There are many historical differences between London in 1666 and now (houses, transport, River Thames, St Paul's Cathedral and transport).
- ☐ The Great Fire of London started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane. The baker was called Thomas Farriner.
- ☐ In 1666, most of London's buildings were made from wood. They were also packed tightly together in narrow rows.
- ☐ Wood is a flammable material. This means it sets on fire very easily. The buildings burnt easily and quickly.
- ☐ Fire services didn't exist so people had to try and put the fire out themselves. They used leather buckets filled with water and axes. They tried their best but were unable to battle against the mighty flames. People carried their belongings to safety. The wind was strong so it blew the flames.
- ☐ The water that was used to put out the fire was from the River Thames. The fire lasted 4 days and burnt over 13,000 homes.
- ☐ Samuel Pepys kept a diary of the Great Fire as he watched it from across the River Thames. He saw the fire spread west and went to inform the King.

Subject-Specific Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Tier 1	
<input type="checkbox"/> Axe	Used for breaking down wooden houses to stop the fire spreading.
<input type="checkbox"/> Diary	A book for keeping a record of experiences and thoughts.
<input type="checkbox"/> Horse and cart	Mode of transport used to escape the city.
<input type="checkbox"/> Leather bucket	A fire-proof bucket used to tackle the fire.
<input type="checkbox"/> London	Capital city of England.
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial	A view from the sky.
Tier 2	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cause	Reasons for the fire starting.
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire squirt	A piece of equipment which squirted litres of water at a fire.
<input type="checkbox"/> Gunpowder	Explosive used to blow up the houses to stop the fire spreading.
<input type="checkbox"/> King Charles II	Monarch at the time.
<input type="checkbox"/> Pudding Lane	Origin of where the fire started.
<input type="checkbox"/> River Thames	Large river in England going through the capital city.
<input type="checkbox"/> Samuel Pepys	Member of Parliament who witnessed the fire and wrote it in his diary.
Tier 3	
<input type="checkbox"/> Flammable	Capable of being easily set on fire.

Memorable Moments

National Archive Great Fire of London Experience

Y2 Great Fire of London



Knowledge about Great Fire of London

- ☐ On Wednesday, it was decided that the houses should be destroyed with gunpowder ahead of the fire to stop the fire from spreading even further. This plan worked, and by Thursday, the fire had been put out.
- ☐ The disaster made London a better and safer city. Streets were made wider and buildings were made stronger, more fireproof and out of brick instead of wood. This was designed by Christopher Wren.
- ☐ Houses in Stafford are built in rows with green space in-between. Houses in London are often more compact and have less green spaces.
- ☐ If a fire started now in Stafford, it is likely to be put out quicker because of housing material, spacing of houses and (better equipped) fire services.

Links

Year 2 History - Kings and Queens

Year 2 Geography: London and the UK

Year 3, 4 and 5: settlements, houses and homes

Reading Text

The Great Fire of London by Emma Adams and James Weston Lewis