

Knowledge about Great Fire of London

- ❑ **London** is the **capital city** of the UK. 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 and St Paul's Cathedral).
- ❑ 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 and buildings burnt quickly. The wind was strong which caused the fire to spread fast.
- ❑ Fire services didn't exist so people tried to put the fire out themselves using lots of different methods including collecting water from the **River Thames**. These methods were not successful.
- ❑ Some people tried to flee the fire by packing their belongings and leaving London.
- ❑ The fire lasted **4 days** and burnt over **13,000 homes** to the ground. The Great Fire of London ended on **6th September 1666**.
- ❑ **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	
❑ Axe	Used for breaking down wooden houses to stop the fire spreading.
❑ Diary	A book for keeping a record of experiences and thoughts.
❑ Horse and cart	Mode of transport used to escape the city.
❑ Leather bucket	A fire-proof bucket used to tackle the fire.
❑ London	Capital city of England.
❑ Aerial	A view from the sky.
Tier 2	
❑ Cause	Reasons for the fire starting.
❑ Fire squirt	A piece of equipment which squirted litres of water at a fire.
❑ Gunpowder	Explosive used to blow up the houses to stop the fire spreading.
❑ King Charles II	Monarch at the time.
❑ Pudding Lane	Where the fire started.
❑ River Thames	Large river in England going through the capital city.
❑ Samuel Pepys	Member of Parliament who witnessed the fire and wrote it in his diary.
Tier 3	
❑ Flammable	Capable of being easily set on fire.

Memorable Moments

National Archive Great Fire of London Experience

Y2 Great Fire of London



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- ❑ On Wednesday, it was decided that the houses should be destroyed with **gunpowder** 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. The new city was designed by **Christopher Wren**.
- ❑ Houses in Stafford are built 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 a better equipped fire service.

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