

HISTORY · Y1–Y3

The Great Fire of London

Knowledge Organiser — Y1–Y3

Key facts

What happened in September

- DATE: The fire started on 2 September 1666 and burned for 3 days
- WHERE IT STARTED: A bakery on Pudding Lane
- WHY IT SPREAD SO FAST: The summer had been very dry; most houses were built from wood and were tightly packed; a strong east wind was blowing
- WHAT BURNED: Around 13,200 houses, 87 churches, and most of the City of London
- PEOPLE KILLED: Surprisingly few — records show only 6 deaths, though many more may have gone unrecorded
- HOMELESS: Around 100,000 Londoners lost their homes
- HOW IT WAS FOUGHT: Firebreaks were made by pulling down houses in the fire's path; there was no professional fire service
- KEY PERSON: King Charles II helped organise firefighting efforts
- KEY PERSON: Samuel Pepys wrote a famous diary describing the fire day by day

After the fire

What changed

- London was rebuilt in brick and stone, not wood



- Sir Christopher Wren designed a new St Paul's Cathedral (completed 1710)
- The Monument to the Great Fire was built near the bakery where it started
- Insurance companies were set up to protect against fire
- Some of the first fire brigades were formed
- London's street plan changed — wider streets to help fire engines pass

