

Year 2 Autumn 1 – Why did the Great Fire of London destroy so much of the city?

Vocabulary Dozen

flammable	Easily sets on fire
monarch	King or queen
pitch	A material used for building which burns very easily
cart	A vehicle with two or four wheels – usually pulled by a horse
eye witness	A person who has seen something and can give a description of it
bakery	A place where bread and cakes are baked and sold
embers	Small pieces of glowing coal or wood in a dying fire
diary	A book with pages for each day of the year in which to write about personal events
historical source	Books, paintings, buildings, diaries and artefacts that help us find out about the past
fire-break	Gaps between buildings made to stop fire spreading
monument	A landmark or structure built to remember people or an event
commemorate	To remember

Important dates

1665 -1666	A Great Plague
2 nd September 1666	The Great Fire of London started
5 th September 1666	The Great Fire of London ended



Background

In London, buildings were built from wood, straw and pitch. These materials are very flammable and so caught fire easily. Buildings were also built very close together which allowed the fire to spread easily. The summer of 1666 had been very hot and there had been very little rain. In those days, people used fire for light, to keep warm and to cook with.

People and Places



King Charles II
The reigning monarch at the time of the fire.



Samuel Pepys
A man who recorded the events of the fire in his diary.



London
The capital city of England

Timeline of the Great Fire of London

<p>Early Sunday morning</p> <p>The fire starts at Thomas Farriner's bakery in Pudding Lane.</p>	<p>Sunday morning</p> <p>Samuel Pepys starts to record the unfolding events in his diary.</p>	<p>Early Monday morning</p> <p>People carry their possessions to safety using boats on the River Thames.</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>St Paul's Cathedral is destroyed by the fire.</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>The fire starts to burn more slowly as the wind dies down.</p>	<p>Thursday</p> <p>The fire is finally under control and put out.</p>
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How do we know what happened?

- The fire started in Thomas Farriner's bakery and spread quickly.
- Samuel Pepys lived in London at the time and wrote about the fire in his diary.
- The diary is one of the most important sources of information about the fire.

