

Year 2 Green Autumn 1: What happened in London in 1666?

Sticky Knowledge

The Great Fire of London started on Sunday 2nd September 1666.

Fires which were used for baking had not been put out properly in a place called Pudding Lane.

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.

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.

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

We know a lot about the great fire as a result of reading the diaries of Samuel Pepys.

Much of London needed to be rebuilt after the fire, including St. Pauls Cathedral.



Key Text



Topic Vocabulary

Bakery

A place that makes bread, cakes, etc.

St. Paul's Cathedral

A very large church in London., rebuilt after the fire.

Diary

A book that people write about their lives in

Firebreak

A gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings

London

The capital city of England.

Timeline

The order in which things happened

Thomas Farriner

The owner of the bakery where the fire started

Samuel Pepys

He wrote about the event in his diary and reported the fire to the king.

River Thames

A river that runs through London that many people escaped to.

Flammable

Something that burns easily.