

## The Great Fire of London

## Key Question: Why did the fire of London happen and how was it stopped?

### Key Events and Facts

<b>When and where did the fire start?</b>	The fire started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriner's <b>bakery</b> on Pudding Lane.
<b>Why did the fire start?</b>	The fires used for baking were not put out properly.
<b>Why did the fire spread so quickly?</b>	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.
<b>How did people try to put the fire out?</b>	People used leather buckets and water squirters 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.
<b>How and when was the fire put out?</b>	By Thursday 6th September, the wind had died down. This meant that people were able to put out the flames.

### Key Vocabulary

<b>bakery</b>	A place that makes bread, cakes, etc.
<b>St Paul's Cathedral</b>	A very large church in London. A new St Paul's Cathedral was built after the fire.
<b>diary</b>	A book that people write about their lives in.
<b>firebreak</b>	A gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings.

### Key People



**Monday 3rd September 1666**

The fire gets very close to the Tower of London.

**Tuesday 4th September 1666**

**St Paul's Cathedral** is destroyed by the fire.

**Sunday 2nd September 1666**

The fire starts at 1 a.m.

Mid-morning: Samuel Pepys starts to write about the fire in his **diary**.

**Wednesday 5th September 1666**

The wind dies down and the fire spreads more slowly.

**Thursday 6th September 1666**

The fire is finally put out.

Thousands of people are left homeless.

**Key Vocabulary:** past, Pudding Lane, Leather water bucket, Tower of London, water squirt, axe, fire hook