

Y1/2 –Why did the Great Fire burn down so many more houses than other fires?

Procedural knowledge

Use sources of evidence to ask and answer questions about the past based on simple observations.
Compare two different versions of the past and reflect on reliability
Know what caused the fire and the effects it had on the city and the people.

Factual and Conceptual knowledge

Timeline

Sunday 2 nd September 1666	Monday 3 rd September 1666	Tuesday 4 th September 1666	Wednesday 5 th September 1666	Thursday 6 th September 1666
A fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. As news of the fire spreads, people run to escape its path.	Firefighters try to tackle the fire but it spreads quickly. People carry their possessions to safety using a horse and cart or boats on the River Thames.	Houses are pulled down in an attempt to stop the fire spreading. St Paul's cathedral is destroyed.	The fire starts to burn more slowly as the wind dies down.	The fire is finally under control and put out. People are left homeless.

When and where did the fire start?

The fire started in a bakery in Pudding Lane on the 2nd September 1666.

Who were the key people involved?

Why did the fire spread?

It hadn't rained for months so the city was very dry. In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood which burns easily. Houses were built too close together and there was no organised fire brigade.



Thomas Farriner
An ember from one of Thomas' bakery ovens ignited some

How did they fight the fire?

They used leather buckets and squirts filled with water, axes, fire hooks and gunpowder to make firebreaks.

nearby fireworks. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.

How did the fire stop?

The fire burned for four days. As the wind died down and changed direction, the fire became under control and was finally put out.



Samuel Pepys

One of the ways we know about the fire is because people wrote about it in their own personal diary.

How many people died?

6 people died as a result of the fire. Thomas Farriner's maid was the first person to die because she was too scared to jump from the burning building.

What happened after the fire?

13, 200 homes were destroyed by the fire and 70,000 people were left homeless. Many left London to live elsewhere and some slept in tents.



King Charles II

Charles II was the King of England in 1666. After the fire, he made a decree that houses must be built further apart and built from stone not timber.

Key Vocabulary

London, eyewitness, embers, flammable, extinguished, bakery, thatched roof, diary, architect, mayor, past, timeline

Links

Diagonal link to UK, London and World Trade UKS2 (Cycle B)