

Knowledge Organiser - The Great Fire of London

Sources of Information

We know about the events that took place at the time through many sources, including:

- Samuel Pepys' diary
- London Gazette reports from 3rd September 1666
- Eyewitness statements from the time
- Paintings of the Great Fire



Firefighters Then and Now

Firefighters have changed a lot from 1666 till now. Back in 1666 they had to use leather buckets and fire squirts to put out fires! They also used to ride in a horse-pulled wagon instead of a fire engine.



Key Vocabulary

fire squirt	A squirt works like a syringe. The person using it would have placed the tapered end into a source of water, and sucked water inside by pulling out the top handle slowly. The water would then be 'squirted' out, pushing the water through the cylinder and on to the fire. It could pump water quite high, up to the height of a first-floor window.
eyewitness	A person who has seen something happen and can give a first-hand description of it
Samuel Pepys	A famous person who lived at the time of the Great Fire and wrote a diary, which detailed the events of the fire. This diary helped historians to learn a lot about the fire.
King Charles	The King in charge at the time, he helped to save the city by suggesting that gunpowder be used to bring down houses in order to create fire breaks between buildings.
thatched roof	A natural method previously used to make roofs. Materials used include straw and palm branches.
Thomas Farriner	The baker who left his oven alight and caused the fire that Sunday night.

Timeline of Events

Mid Sunday morning



As news of the fire spreads, people run to escape from its path.

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Sunday evening



Houses are pulled down in an attempt to stop the fire spreading.

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Early Monday morning



People carry their possessions to safety using boats on the River Thames.

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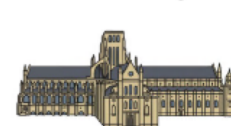
Monday evening



The fire spreads very close to the Tower of London

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Tuesday



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

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Thursday



The fire is finally under control and put out.

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Early Sunday morning



The fire starts at Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane.

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Sunday morning



Samuel Pepys starts to record the unfolding events in his diary.

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Late Monday morning



Carts are banned from going near the fire.

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Wednesday



The fire starts to burn more slowly as the wind dies down.

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