

# Fire! Fire!

The Great Fire of London 1666

Key Events and Facts	
When and where did the fire start?	The fire started on Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 1666 in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane.
Why did the fire spread so quickly?	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.
How did people try to put the fire out?	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.
How and when was the fire put out?	By Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> September, the wind had died down. This meant that people were able to put out the flames.
What happened after the fire was put out?	King Charles II ordered that buildings should be <b>rebuilt</b> from brick or stone and that streets should be made wider. This was to stop another fire from spreading like the Great Fire of London did.

Key Figures	
Thomas Farriner	He was a baker. At midnight he checked his ovens before going to bed but a fire started in the night from the hot ashes.
Samuel Pepys	He wrote a diary about the fire. He went to tell the king about the fire. He even buried a cheese in his garden to keep it safe!
King Charles II	The king ordered that houses that had not been destroyed by the fire should be pulled down or exploded using gunpowder to stop the fire spreading any further. He also made a law that new houses were made of bricks or stone instead of wood.
Christopher Wren	He was a Surveyor of the King's buildings and helped to re-build London after the fire, including many new churches, each with a magnificent spire.

## Key People



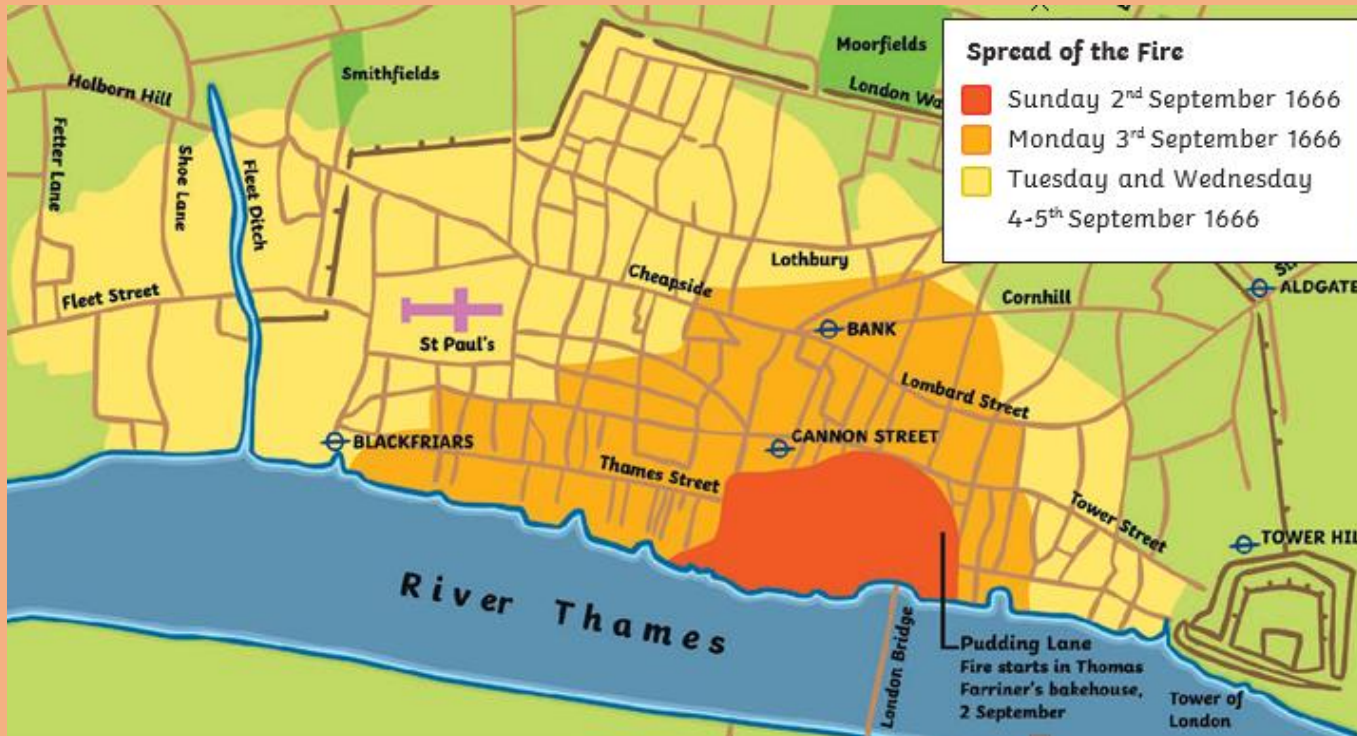
Samuel Pepys



Sir Christopher Wren



King Charles II



#### Interesting Facts

The fire spread so quickly because the houses had thatched (straw) roofs were built from wood. They were also high and very close together. The weather was also very hot and dry. People used fire and candles to heat and light their homes.

There were no fire fighters or fire engines at the time of the Great Fire of London. Instead they used leather buckets and water from the River Thames. Water pipes were made from elm tree trunks to help carry water to the fire. Church bells were rung to warn people.

After the fire had stopped, the King made a law that no one was allowed to have a thatched roof. New buildings had to be made of brick and stone because wood burnt too easily. The city also set up fire brigades.

#### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1666

The fire gets very close to the Tower of London.

#### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 1666

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

#### Timeline of Events

#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1666

The fire starts at around 1 a.m.  
Mid-morning: Samuel Pepys starts to write about the fire in his **diary**.

#### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 1666

The wind dies down and the fire spreads more slowly.

#### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 1666

The fire is finally put out.  
Thousands of people are left homeless.