

Year 2: Let's Learn About... Towers, Tunnels and Turrets Spring 2



The Great Fire of London

Thomas Farriner was the baker of King Charles II. His bakery shop was on Pudding Lane in London. A spark from one of his ovens started a terrible fire on Sunday 2nd September 1666. It was known as **the Great Fire of London**.

Key people



Thomas Farriner

An **ember** from one of Thomas's bakery ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.



Samuel Pepys

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



King Charles II

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



Timeline of events

Sunday 2nd September 1666

The fire spread along Pudding Lane. King Charles II asked for wooden houses to be knocked down to make gaps in the streets to stop the fire spreading. His plan didn't work.

Monday 3rd September 1666

Many people packed their belongings and left the city. The fire reached the Tower of London, but the tower didn't catch fire.

Tuesday 4th September 1666

The main street in London, Cheapside, caught fire. The fire reached St Paul's **Cathedral** and burned it to the ground.

Wednesday 5th September 1666

The fire starts to burn more slowly as the wind dies down. The fire reached the river and died down.

Thursday 6th September 1666

Hundreds of soldiers started to clean the streets and put out small fires that were still burning.

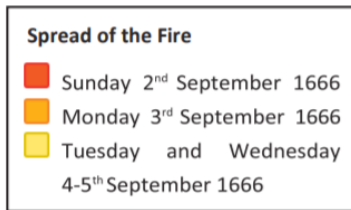
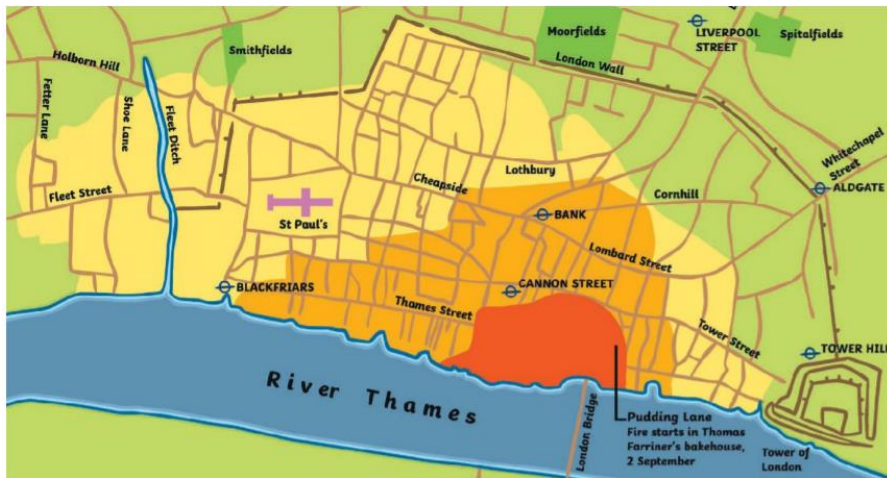
Friday 7th September 1666

The fire was finally out.

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The spread of the fire



Key questions and facts

When and where did the fire start?	The fire started in a bakery in Pudding Lane on 2 nd September 1666.
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.
How did they fight the fire?	They used leather buckets and squirts filled with water, axes, fire-hooks and gunpowder to make fire-breaks.
How did the fire stop?	The fire burned for 4 days. As the wind died down and changed direction the fire became under control and was finally put out.
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 houses were destroyed by the fire and 70,000 people were left homeless. Many left London to live elsewhere and some slept in tents.

Key Vocabulary

capital city	A city that is home to the government or ruler of a country	flammable	When something burns easily
cathedral	A large, important church	fire hooks	Giant hooks used to pull down houses
landmark	A feature such as a building or statue which can be seen from far away		
embers	Small pieces of glowing coal or wood in a dying fire		
fire-breaks	When buildings are destroyed to make a gap so that fire can't spread		