

Objectives

Pupils should be taught about:

- events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally [for example, the Great Fire of London, the first aeroplane flight or events commemorated through festivals or anniversaries].

Key People

Thomas Farriner		An ember from one of Thomas' 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 and reported to the King.
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.
Sir Christopher Wren		He redesigned St Pauls Cathedral after it burnt down.

Key Vocabulary

bakery	a shop where bread and cakes are made.
Pudding Lane	This is where the fire started.
oven	a place where food is cooked. Today we use gas or electricity to heat ovens but in 1666 they burnt wood to heat the oven.
St Paul's Cathedral	A very large church in London. A new St Paul's Cathedral was built after the fire and still exists today.
diary	A book that people write about their lives in.
firebreak	A gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings.
London	The capital city of England and the United Kingdom.
River Thames	Many people got a boat on the River Thames to escape the fire.
Eye-witness	A person who has seen something and can give a description of it.
Embers	Small pieces of glowing coal or wood in a dying fire.
Fire-hooks	Giant hooks used to pull down houses.
Leather bucket	Leather is a material and was what buckets were made from before plastic was invented.
flammable	When something burns easily.

Key Events and Facts

When and where did the fire start?	The fire started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane.
Why did the fire start?	The fires used for baking were not put out properly.
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 and there was no organised fire brigade.
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. They used gunpowder, axes and fire hooks to do this.
How and when was the fire put out?	By Thursday 6th September, the wind had died down. This meant that people were able to put out the flames.
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.

Timeline of Events

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.