

What should I already know?

- A monarch is a king, queen or emperor (head of state)
- Our monarch is Queen Elizabeth II and William the Conqueror and Queen Victoria were monarchs in the past
- The time of William the Conqueror was before the time of Queen Victoria
- First-hand accounts and paintings are both ways in which we can learn about the past
- Events and people in the past can lead to improvements that affect our lives now

Timeline

2nd September 1666 - 1:30 am: A fire starts in Thomas Faryner’s bakery on Pudding Lane in the middle of the night. The fire probably came from the oven.

2nd September 1666 - 7 am: Samuel Pepys wakes up and finds out that the fire has already burnt down 300 houses!

3rd September 1666 - The firemen try to put the fire out using leather buckets of water and then by pulling down houses with fire hooks. They hope this will make a fire break but the fire keeps on spreading.

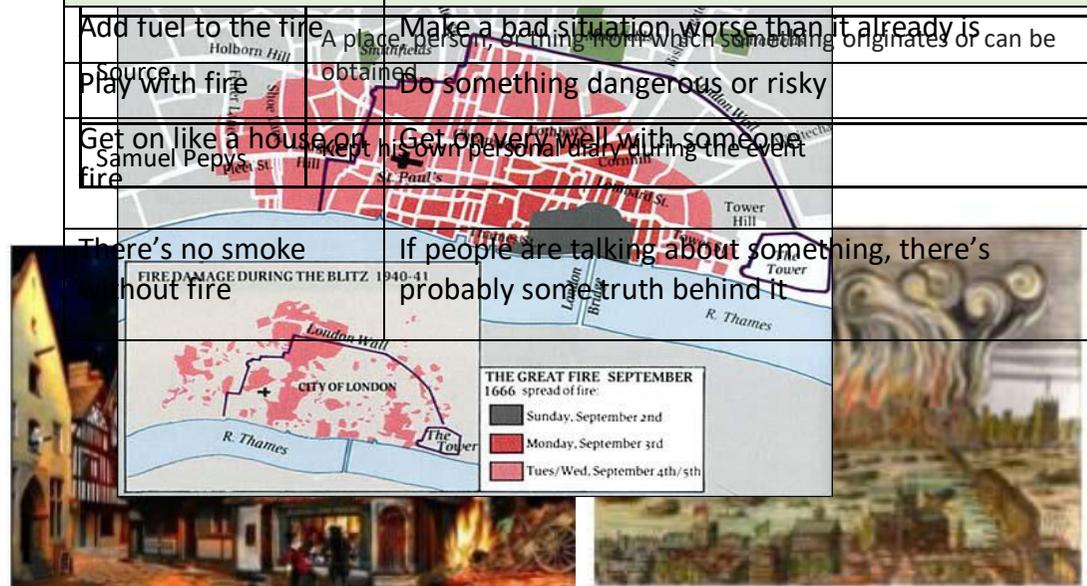
4th September 1666 - St Paul’s Cathedral burns down.

6th September 1666 - The Fire of London finally stops but many people are left homeless because their houses burnt down.

Vocabulary

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| Bakery | A place where bread or cakes are made and sold |
| London | The capital city of England and the United Kingdom |
| River Thames | The longest river in England situated in London |
| Eye-witness | A person who has seen something and can give a description of it |
| Embers | Small pieces of glowing coal or wood from a dying fire |
| Fire-hooks | Giant hooks used to pull down houses |
| Fire-break | When building are destroyed to make a gap so the fire can’t spread |
| Flammable | When something burns easily |
| Monarch | Head of state, especially a king, queen, or emperor. |
| Monument | A building, structure, or site that is of historical importance or interest. |
| Diary | A personal record kept of a life event |

| Phrase | Meaning |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Add fuel to the fire | Make a bad situation worse than it already is |
| Source | A place, person, or thing from which something originates or can be obtained |
| Play with fire | Do something dangerous or risky |
| Get on like a house on fire | Get on very well with someone |
| There’s no smoke without fire | If people are talking about something, there’s probably some truth behind it |



Key Facts

- The Great Fire of London happened between 2-5 September in 1666.
- The fire began in a bakery in Pudding Lane.
- Before the fire began, there had been a drought in London that lasted for 10 months, so the city was very dry.
- In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood and straw which burned easily. Houses were also built very close together.
- We know what happened during the fire because people back then wrote about it in letters and newspapers – for instance, Samuel Pepys wrote about it in his diary.
- Artists who were alive in 1666 painted pictures of the fire afterwards, so we know what it would have looked like if we'd been there too.
- To fight fires during this time, people would have used leather buckets, metal hooks and water squirts.
- People whose homes had burned down lived in tents in the fields around London while buildings were rebuilt.
- When houses were rebuilt, a lot of them were made in bricks instead of wood, and they weren't built so close together.
- Sir Christopher Wren designed a monument to remember the Great Fire of London, which still stands today.

