



Yr 2 Knowledge Organiser – Great Fire of London

In Year 2, students will discuss important events during the Great Fire of London in 1666, examining its spread and eventual end. They will learn about the fire through Samuel Pepys' diary and other primary sources. Comparisons between 17th century London and present-day will be made, covering buildings, people, and transportation. Students will write a report on the Great Fire and evaluate the usefulness of different sources. They will also begin to question the reliability of historical evidence. Finally, they will use factual evidence to imagine and write about the experiences of people in different historical periods.

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.
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 6th September, the wind had died down. This meant that people were able to put out the flames.

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.

Timeline of Events

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.

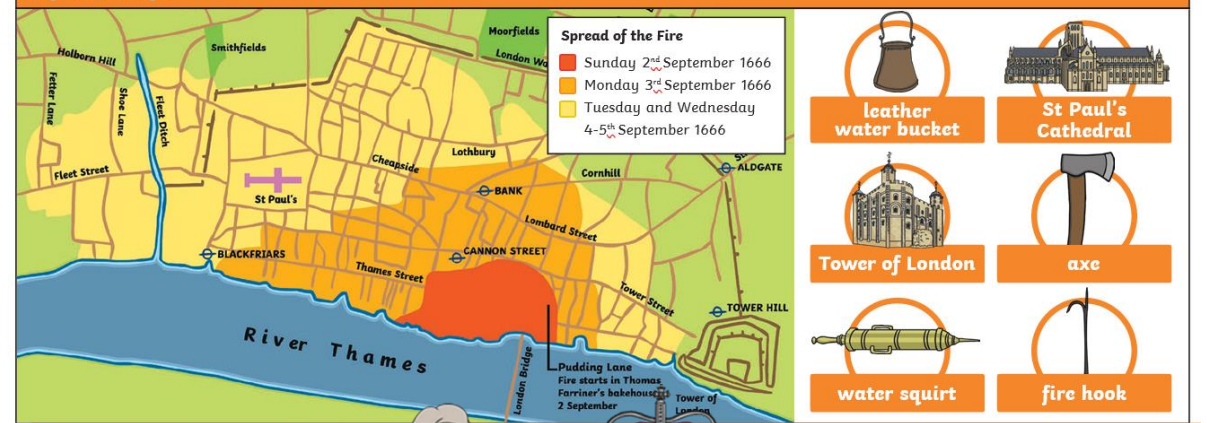
Unit overview

This Great Fire of London unit will teach your class about the key events of the Great Fire of London, and help them develop an understanding of the ways in which we can find out about the past through discussing primary sources. In doing so, this unit also provides an introduction to Samuel Pepys and his infamous diary. The children will have the opportunity to increase their awareness of the past by comparing and contrasting past and present-day London, as well as looking at how life was different in the 17th century

Key Vocabulary

bakery	A place that makes bread, cakes, etc.
St Paul's Cathedral	A very large church in London. A new St Paul's Cathedral was built after the fire.
diary	A book that people write about their lives in.
firebreak	A gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings.

Key Knowledge



Samuel Pepys



Thomas Farriner



King Charles II

I can find out some of the ways in which London has changed.	Start of unit	End of unit
Talk about how the Buildings in London were Different in the past.		
Talk about how people Travelled differently in London In the past.		
Compare past and Present London to say what Things are different and Similar.		

find out some of the ways in which how we live now is different and similar to how people lived in 1666.	Start of unit	End of unit
Describe some ways in Which how we live now is similar and Different to 1666.		
I can talk about the Differences between fire Fighters in 1666 and now.		
Talk about some of the Jobs that people often did in 1666.		

I can find out about how the Great Fire started and spread across London.	Start of unit	End of unit
Choose some Of the sources that historians Could use to find out about The Great Fire of London.		
Explain why some Historical sources are helpful To find out more about the Great Fire of London.		
Explain why some Historical sources are not Helpful to find out more about the Great Fire of London.		

I can find out how London was rebuilt after the Great Fire.	Start of unit	End of unit
Create a poster showing My ideas about how London Could have been rebuilt after The Great Fire.		
Describe the ways in Which London was rebuilt.		

I can find out about how the Great Fire started and spread across London.	Start of unit	End of unit
Say how and where the Fire started.		
Say why it might have Spread.		
Put the events of the Great Fire in order.		

I can show what I have learned about the Great Fire of London.	Start of unit	End of unit
Write about when and How the fire started, why it Spread and how it affected London.		
Create a newspaper Report, describing the main Events of the Great Fire of London.		
Include quotes in my Report from eyewitnesses, Such as Samuel Pepys		