

# Why did the fire burn so many buildings and what impact did it have on London?

## I Should Already Know

That there are people and events of national significance.

How to sequence events on a timeline

The meanings of these words:  
**chronological order, source, evidence**

Some of the ways in which we find out about the past

There are men and women who work in jobs to keep us safe e.g., the police, the army etc.



## Vocabulary

- **Samuel Pepys** - a famous 17th century diarist who lived in London during the great fire. Much of what we know about the Great Fire of London comes from Pepys
- **Thomas Farriner** - Thomas Farriner is the owner of the bakery on Pudding Lane where the fire started
- **eye witness** – a person who has seen something and can give a description of it
- **Firebreak** – a gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings.
- **St. Paul's Cathedral** – A very large church in London which burnt down during the fire. A new St. Paul's Cathedral was built after the fire.
- **Tower of London** – where King Charles II lived in 1666. The fire was stopped just before it reached the palace.
- **Flammable** – when something burns easily.
- **timber** – wooden
- **thatched** - a roof made of straw or reeds
- **ember** - a little piece of wood or coal which is hot and glowing.

## Sticky Knowledge

- 1 The fire started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. It lasted for 5 days
- 2 The weather was hot. Houses in London were mainly built from wood and straw which is flammable. The houses were very close together, so fire could easily spread. Strong winds were blowing, which helped flames to spread.
- 3 There was no fire brigade. King Charles II ordered buildings to be pulled down to stop the flames from spreading.
- 4 Samuel Pepys lived in London during the Great Fire of London and wrote about it in his diary.
- 5 After the fire King Charles said that houses must be built further apart and built from stone not wood.

**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.

