

The Great Fire of London

In the early hours of Sunday 2nd September, 1666, a fire started in the bakery on Pudding Lane. Thomas Farriner, the baker, had forgotten to put out the fire he had made to bake the bread. The fire got out of control and before long, the bakery was alight. The fire then quickly spread to nearby buildings.

The buildings in London at that time were made of wood and were built very close together, which meant the fire could spread easily from one building to the next.



Did You Know...?

Even after the Great Fire of London, a national fire service was not formed until 1866.

There were no firefighters in 1666, so the people in the city had to fight the fire themselves. They used leather buckets filled with water from the River Thames, but this didn't work very well. On Sunday evening, they started pulling down houses to stop the fire spreading as the wind was strong and it was helping to spread the fire. Soon, people were running from the fire, taking their belongings onto boats on the river.

On Tuesday, the fire destroyed St Paul's Cathedral.

Luckily, on Wednesday, the wind wasn't as strong and this helped to slow the fire down. The people were able to fight it with buckets of water to stop the flames spreading. Soon after, the fire was finally put out.



Much of London had been destroyed by the fire and had to be rebuilt. The new buildings were made of brick and were built further apart to try to stop any future fire from spreading so far.



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Answer the following questions using full sentences.

1. When did the Great Fire of London begin?

2. Where did the fire start?

3. What was the name of the baker?

4. Why did the people of the city have to fight the fire?

5. Why did the fire spread so easily? Give two reasons.

6. On what day did the fire destroy St Paul's Cathedral?

7. What were the new buildings made from? Why?

8. When was the first fire service started?

9. How do you think the people of London felt when the city was on fire?
