

Year 2 - Spring 1 Knowledge Organiser

The Great Fire of London



Heathfield Schools' Partnership
ambitious for the future

The Great Fire of London is one of the most well-known disasters in London's history. It began on 2 September 1666 and lasted just under five days. One-third of London was destroyed and about 100,000 people were made homeless. During our topic we will be asking questions about different sources, comparing present day to the past and thinking about how people might have felt during the fire.

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.

Key people



King Charles II



Samuel Pepys



Christopher Wren



Thomas Farriner

Spread of the fire



Key vocabulary

Timeline	Source	Past Present
Future	London	Fire brigade
Eyewitness		Chronological
Differences	Similarities	Diary



Timeline



1782

First modern circus



1902

First Teddy Bear invented

2018-2019

You were born

1666

Great Fire of London



1840

First stamp invented



2025

You started Year 2