

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



1666  
Great Fire of London

1782  
First modern circus



1840  
First stamp invented



1902  
First Teddy Bear invented

2018-2019  
You were born



2025  
You started Year 2