

Y1 HISTORY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: WHAT WAS THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON?

Key Vocabulary

bakery	A place that makes bread and cakes.	fire brigade	People trained to stop fires.
combustible	Able to catch fire and burn easily.	fire hooks	Long pole with a hook used to pull down walls and ceilings
destruction	Wiping something out so it cannot be fixed	flammable	Easily set on fire
diary	A book that people write about their lives	pitch	A flammable material that was used in the wooden buildings.
eyewitness	A person who has seen something first hand	possessions	things belonging to people

Key Ideas

- ☐ Over 350 years ago, in 1666, a fire broke out in a bakery in Pudding Lane, London. The fire raged for four days and nights and led to the destruction of the City of London. The way the houses were built, the lack of a fire fighting service and the weather all played a part in this terrible event. It is known as the Great Fire of London. After the fire, the City of London was rebuilt in a much better way.
- ☐ At the time of the fire the City of London had become very busy with many poorly built houses all crowded together. There were lots of flammable materials in the buildings like wood, thatch, tar and pitch. This means that they could catch fire very easily.
- ☐ When the great fire was over King Charles II ordered the city to be rebuilt in brick and stone. Famous architects drew plans for the new buildings, like St Paul's Cathedral.
- ☐ At the time of the great fire London was the capital city of England. It shows that our country was part of a great civilization at this time.



How do we know about the Great Fire?

-Eyewitness accounts about the fire were written down by people who saw it. These accounts include the diary of Samuel Pepys. They tell us a lot about the fire, how it started and what happened afterwards.

Timeline

2nd September 1666	3rd September 1666	4th September 1666	5th September 1666	6th September 1666
Fire started in Pudding Lane.	Fire spread through the South of the city.	The fire reached its peak.	The wind died down and the fire lost its strength.	The last flames were put out.