

Year 2 Term 2 History: Why was the Great Fire of London so great?



Curriculum Key Question:
Where have we come from?
Topic: Why was the Great fire of London so great?

Skills I will develop:

Disciplinary Concepts

- To place events, artefacts and historical figures on a timeline.
- To use dates where appropriate.
- To observe or handle evidence to ask questions and find answers to questions about the past.
- To begin to explain why evidence can be trusted (such as Samuel Pepys Diary).
- To explain the causes of the Great Fire of London and what the consequences were.
- To describe what changed after the Great Fire of London and how these changes have continued through to the 21st century.
- To use artefacts and diary entries to compare similarities and differences.
- To identify some of the different ways the past has been represented.
- To describe significant people from the past and explain why they are important.
- To name a monarch.

Substantive Knowledge

- The Great Fire of London happened in 1666.
- The fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane.
- Buildings were close together and often made of wood, meaning that the fire spread quickly.
- For many years after the fire, buildings were rebuilt further apart and made with stone.
- Sir Christopher Wren created a new design for St Paul's Cathedral, which was then rebuilt.

London in 1666

London in 1666 was very different to what London is like now in the present day.

- The **houses were made of wood** and built **very close together**.
- The streets were **cramped**.
- There was **no fire brigade** or firefighters.
- There were **no telephones**.
- There were **no cars** or buses.



How do we find out about the past?

We can find out about the past by:

- looking at and reading **non-fiction books**
- searching the **internet**
- **talking** to people who were around at the time that we want to find out about
- watching **video clips** or TV shows about the time in history we want to find out about
- visiting **museums**
- looking at **photographs**
- looking at **objects from the past**

Significant historical figures

These people were around at the time of the Great Fire of London, and they all played an important part in it. You will find out more about them in your lessons.

- **Thomas Farriner**, a baker. The fire started in his bakery on Pudding Lane.
- The **Lord Mayor** of London decided how the fire should be put out.
- **Samuel Pepys** wrote about the events of the Great Fire of London in his diary.
- **King Charles II** was the monarch at the time of the Great Fire. He made important decisions about how to stop the fire from spreading and how the city should be rebuilt afterwards.
- **Christopher Wren** was an architect involved in the planning, designing and building the new city after the fire.

Key history vocabulary to help us

- London
- Pudding Lange
- Thomas Farriner
- Bakery
- Wooden houses
- Leather buckets
- Water squirter
- Water pump
- Fire hook
- Samuel Pepys
- King Charles II
- Archaeologist
- Christopher Wren
- 1666
- Monument
- Past
- Present
- Before
- After
- St. Paul's Cathedral
- Lord Mayor

