



Knowledge Organiser

Year Group	Subject	Topic
2	History	Great Fire of London

The Big Picture

For this topic, the focus will be on events beyond living memory that are significant nationally. The children will continue to work on developing an understanding of the past and comparing London in the past and present. The children will learn about the Great Fire of London, how the fire spread and how the event changed life today. The children will develop their historical enquiry skills and begin to ask and answer questions, as well as examine sources from the past. We will also use our support text to help with our learning and understanding of the topic.

Enquiry questions

When and where did the fire start?

Why did the fire spread?

How did they fight the fire?

How did they stop the fire?

How many people died?

What happened after the fire?

Key Vocabulary

Past - gone by in time and no longer existing

Present - existing or occurring now.

Old - belonging to the past; former.

New - already existing but seen, experienced, or acquired recently or now for the first time.

Compare - estimate, measure, or note the similarity or dissimilarity between.

Significant - sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention; noteworthy.

London - The capital city of England and the United Kingdom

Timeline - a graphical representation of a period of time, on which important events are marked.

Chronological order - arranged in or according to the order of time

Similarities - the state or fact of being similar.

Differences - a point or way in which people or things are dissimilar.

Timeline

Sunday 2nd September 1666

A fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. As news of the fire spreads, people run to escape its path.

Monday 3rd September 1666

Fire-fighters try to tackle the fire but it spreads quickly. People carry their possessions to safety using a horse and cart or boats on the River Thames.

Tuesday 4th September 1666

Houses are pulled down in an attempt to stop the fire spreading. St. Paul's Cathedral is destroyed.

Wednesday 5th September 1666

The fire starts to burn more slowly as the wind dies down.

Thursday 6th September 1666

The fire is finally under control and put out. People are left homeless.

The Great Fire of London



Key People



Thomas Farriner

An ember from one of Thomas' bakery ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.



Samuel Pepys

One of the ways we know about the fire is because people wrote about it in their own personal diary.



King Charles II

Charles II was the King of England in 1666. After the fire, he made a decree that houses must be built further apart and built from stone not timber.

Useful Websites

The Great Fire of London Game – enjoy telling the story of the Great Fire of London through different characters.

<http://www.fireoflondon.org.uk/game/>

CBBC Newsround – guide to The Great Fire of London

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/37222884>

Video BBC Magic Grandad: Samuel Pepys Great Fire of London (Please note that YouTube videos may contain adverts).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VarSSAwimU&feature=emb_logo

CBeebies – Isabell's escape from the Great Fire of London – listen to the story of one girl's experience of the Great Fire of London in this radio podcast.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cheebies/radio/my-story-isabell-great-fire>

Then try this quiz for fun:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cheebies/puzzles/my-story-fire-of-london-quiz>

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. It lasted for 5 days.



Why did the fire spread so quickly?

The weather was hot and it hadn't rained for months. Houses in London were mainly built from wood and straw which is flammable, especially when it is very dry. The houses were very close together, so fire could easily spread. Strong winds were blowing, which helped the flames to spread.

How did people try to put the fire out?

There was no fire brigade so ordinary 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 so people were able to put out the flames.

How many people died?

6 people died as a result of the fire.

What happened after the fire?

13,200 houses were destroyed by the fire and 70,000 people were left homeless. Many left London to live elsewhere and some slept in tents. An organised fire brigade was established and water engines were designed that gave a continuous stream of water when pumped.

