



## British History: Green Class – Events beyond living memory

### What was the Great fire of London and why did it spread so quickly?

#### Key Vocabulary

Fire Hook	A pole having a hooked metal head and used in firefighting for tearing down walls or ceilings.
Pudding lane	A street in London known for being the location of Thomas Farrier's bakery where the Great fire of London started.
River Thames	A river in England .
Leather Bucket	A water container made of leather used in an attempt to put out the fires.
Diary	A book in which a person keeps a record of events and experiences
St Paul's Cathedral	A very large church that was destroyed in the Great Fire of London
Fire	The hot, bright flames produced by things that are burning.
Axe	A tool used for cutting wood and other materials
Bakery	A building where bread, pastries and cake are baked, or the shop where they are sold.
Cart	An old– Fashioned wooden vehicle that is used for transporting goods or people.
City	A large town.
Destroyed	To have so much damage to it that it is completely ruined or does not exist anymore.



#### Key People

Thomas Farriner  
 Mary Farriner  
 Samuel Peppys  
 King Charles II  
 Thomas Bludworth

#### Key Places

Britain  
 London

#### Key Dates

Sunday 2nd September 1666	The Fire started in Thomas Farriner's Bakery.
Tuesday 4th September 1666	St Paul's Cathedral Catches fire.
Wednesday 5th Septmeber 1666	The Navy blew up houses in the path of the fire to stop the fire spreading
Thursday 6th September 1666	The fire officially ends.
Tuesday 11th September 1666	Christopher Wren Submits his new lay-out for the city to the king.





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### What was the Great fire of London and why did it spread so quickly?

#### Key Knowledge

The fire started in Thomas Farriner's bakery in Pudding Lane. It may have been caused by a spark from his oven falling onto a pile of fuel nearby.

Following a long, dry summer the city was suffering a drought. Water was scarce and a strong wind from the east meant it spread rapidly from house to house.

Buildings, including houses, were made of timber and roofed with thatch, meaning they caught fire easily. Homes were tightly packed and the city was full of sheds and yard-spaced high with flammable hay and straw.

There was no fire brigade in London in 1666 so Londoners themselves had to fight the fire, helped by local soldiers. .

#### Key Knowledge

There were some attempts made to open pipes next to burning buildings in order to connect it to a hose or fill buckets.

As soon as the Lord Mayor heard the news, he expressed a lack of concern that the fire would become dangerous before returning back to his home and going back to sleep.

Indeed, months earlier, the Mayor had been warned of the danger caused by the narrow streets and over-hanging timber houses.

Shortly after, clever businessmen spotted an opportunity to make money by employing men to extinguish fires: the first fire brigades were formed.

Sir Christopher Wren was given the task of rebuilding London –he built 52 of the city's churches, including St. Paul's Cathedral.

