



Key Knowledge

The Great Fire of London started on 2nd September 1666 in a bakery on Pudding Lane. At this time, many houses in London were made from wood and were built very close together, which allowed the fire to spread quickly.

Strong winds helped the flames spread across the city. The fire burned for four days and destroyed around 13,000 buildings, including many homes and St Paul's Cathedral.



Many people had to leave their homes to stay safe. They used the River Thames to escape, while others tried to fight the fire using buckets of water and fire hooks.

Samuel Pepys, an eyewitness, wrote a diary describing what he saw during the fire. His diary helps historians understand what happened in 1666.

location



society



settlements

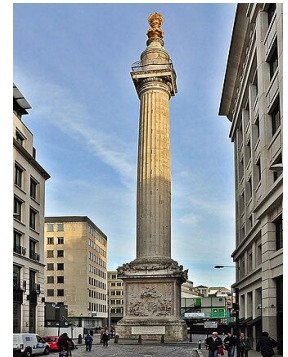


Key Vocabulary	Meaning
Great Fire of London	A huge fire that spread through London in 1666.
spread	To move and grow across an area.
destroy	To damage something completely.
bakery	A place where foods like bread and cakes are made.
eyewitness	A person who saw an event happen.
firebreak	A gap created to stop a fire spreading.
monument	A tall structure built to remember something specific.
River Thames	A very long river that goes through London.
evacuate	To leave a place to stay safe.
source	An item which gives us information about the past.
Samuel Pepys	An eyewitness who wrote a diary about the Great Fire.

Did you know...

Pudding Lane still exists today! You can visit and see a plaque on the wall which marks the site where the fire began.

There is a monument which was built to commemorate the Great Fire of London. You can climb 311 winding step stones to reach the top viewing platform!



[Find out more!](#)

Was the fire completely bad?

Why had the homes been built so close together on narrow streets?

How did London change after the fire?

Why do we still remember a fire that happened over 350 years ago?

Queen Victoria's reign 1837 -1901

Great Fire of London 1666



Amelia Earheart was born 1897



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