



# The Great Fire of London



## Vocabulary

## Key Questions

Key Individual– Samuel Pepys  
1633—1703



| Key Vocabulary      | Definition   |
|---------------------|--|
| Monument            | A statue, building, or other structure erected to commemorate a notable person or event. |
| Diary               | A book in which one keeps a daily record of events and experiences.                      |
| firebreak           | A gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings.                                   |
| bakery              | A place that makes bread, cakes, etc.  |
| St Paul's Cathedral | A very large church in London. A new St Paul's cathedral was built after the fire.       |

When and where did the fire start?

Why did the fire spread so quickly?

How and when was the fire put out?

| Key Facts  |
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| The Great Fire of London was a major fire that happened London from Sunday 2nd September to Thursday 6th September 1666.   |
| The fire destroyed: 13200 houses (the homes of 70,000 people); 87 churches; St. Paul's Cathedral;  |
| The fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane. A spark from the oven set the fire going.  |
| Only 6 deaths were reported:   |
| In 1666, the buildings in London were made of wood and straw and they were very close together, making it easy for the flames to spread. It had also been a dry summer, so the buildings were dry. Strong winds were blowing, which helped the flames to spread. |
| 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.  |
| Samuel Pepys worked for the British government and navy  |
| Pepys recorded, in a diary, the ways people escaped the fire.  |
| When Pepys felt he was in danger, he buried a parmesan cheese from Italy because it was expensive.   |



## Timeline

