



Knowledge Organiser: Y2 History

Did the Great Fire of London have any benefits for society?

Was the Great Fire of London a bad thing?

Timeline of key events

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 2nd September 1666 | <p>1am – The fire begins</p> <p>3am – The Lord Mayor goes to look at the fire, but decides it is not too bad, so goes back to bed</p> <p>7am – The fire has spread</p> <p>11am – The Mayor orders the pulling down of houses, having been instructed by the King, who was informed by Samuel Pepys</p> <p>3pm – The King sails down the River Thames to observe the fire</p> |
| Monday 3rd September 1666 | <p>The government order fire posts to be set up</p> <p>A group of school boys successfully hold back the fires</p> <p>Midday – The fire can be seen 60 miles away in Oxford</p> |
| Tuesday 4th September 1666 | <p>The fire reaches its peak</p> <p>It has spreads from Temple in the west, to the Tower of London in the East (where gunpowder is used to blow up houses in order to stop the fire reaching the Tower)</p> <p>A number of prisons in London are destroyed by the fire, as is St Paul's Cathedral</p> <p>11pm – The wind begins to die down</p> |
| Wednesday 5th September 1666 | <p>The wind changes direction, blowing the fire towards the River Thames</p> <p>Most of the remaining fires have been put out</p> |
| Thursday 6th September 1666 | <p>The final fires are extinguished</p> |

Key Information

- Fire began in a bakery in Pudding Lane
- Fire spread rapidly due in part to buildings being crowded together and made with wood
- There was no official fire service/brigade – the general public helped to put out the fire
- The fire died down as the wind changed direction
- We know a lot about the fire as a result of reading Samuel Pepys diaries
- Much of London needed to be rebuilt after the fire

Key Places

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Pudding Lane | Where the fire started | Where the fire started |
| The Tower of London | Where many flee to escape the flames and where the wealthy deposited their valuables during the fire for safekeeping | |
| London Bridge | The only crossing of the River Thames in the City of London | |

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| The River Thames | Where many people escape to |
| St Paul's Cathedral | Was raised to the ground during the fire and rebuilt using designs from Sir Christopher Wren |
| Key Figures | |
| Thomas Farriner | Owned the bakery where the fire started |
| Thomas Bludworth | The Lord Mayor of London |
| Samuel Pepys | Wrote about the event in his diary, and reported the fire to the King |
| Robert Hubert | Admitted (falsely) that he started the fire |
| Charles II | The King at the time of the fire |
| John Evelyn | Also wrote about the fire |
| William Taswell | A school boy at the time, who also wrote about the fire |
| Sir Christopher Wren | The architect who redesigned London after the fire |
| Key Skills | |
| Map work | Using maps & online maps to locate London/Pudding Lane Using digi-maps to compare maps of same area in different time periods |
| Research | Using non-fiction books, websites, diary extracts to discover and understand events |
| Ordering chronologically | Ordering dates on a simple timeline / working backwards Understanding what dates mean e.g 2019/1919/1799/1066 |
| Key Concepts | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of history (past) • Cause & effect • Bad/unfortunate events can have positive impacts • Fact & fiction | |
| Key Questions | |
| Why did the fire spread? | |
| Did anyone die in the fire? | |
| What part did the weather play in the spread and stoppage of the fire? | |
| What measures were put in place after the fire? | |
| What was the population of London at the time of the fire? | |
| What is the population of London now? | |
| Impact | |

- Many people were left homeless. Some never returned to London
- People slept in tents around the Tower of London
- Charles II made a decree that houses should be further apart, that they must be made from stone and that those businesses using fire (bakers, dyers, brewers) would not be able to reside in the centre of the city
- An organised Fire Brigade was established
- People began to insure their houses
- Sir Christopher Wren was charged with redesigning the City of London - including St Paul's Cathedral

Key Vocab

| Words | Definitions |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| past | The time before now / periods of history before the present day e.g yesterday, last year, last century The time before the moment of speaking or writing |
| present | Now The period of time now occurring |
| future | Time that has not happened yet e.g tomorrow/next month |
| history | The study of things that have happened in the past |
| timeline | The order in which events happened (chronological) |
| year | A unit of measurement - 365 days |
| decade | 10 years |
| century | 100 years |
| fire | Flames – can be set intentionally or accidentally |
| London | Capital City of UK |
| Cathedral | Large and important Church that has a Bishop in charge of it |
| King | The male ruler of the country who holds this role because he is a member of the royal family |
| fire brigade | Group of people whose job it is to put out fires |
| difference | What is not the same |
| similarities | What is/almost is the same |
| diary | A written record of events/thoughts/opinions – individuals keep diaries writing in them daily/frequently |
| architect | Someone who designs buildings |
| Mayor | Important leader in a town/city |
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