

The Great Fire of London

On Sunday 2nd September, 1666, a fire began in a bakery on Pudding Lane, in London. The baker had forgotten to put out the fire he had used to bake his bread.



Did You Know...?

In 1666, the buildings in London were all made of wood and built very close together, which meant the fire could spread easily.

The fire soon started to spread to other buildings. There were no firefighters in 1666, so people had to try to put the fire out themselves, using leather buckets and water from the River Thames. This didn't work very well. Soon, people began to run from the fire, taking their families and belongings onto boats on the river.

The fire carried on spreading on Monday and Tuesday. Luckily, on Wednesday, the wind stopped and the people were able to fight the fire with water and by pulling down buildings in the path of the fire, so they wouldn't catch light.

The fire destroyed large parts of London, which had to be rebuilt. The new buildings were made out of brick.



Did you know?

Even after the Great Fire of London, a fire service was not formed until 1866.

The Great Fire of London

Answer the following questions using full sentences.

1. Where did the Great Fire of London begin?

2. On what date did the fire begin?

3. What did the baker forget to do?

4. What did the people use to fight the fire?

5. Where did some people take their families and their belongings?

6. Give two reasons why the fire spread easily.

7. What were the new buildings made of?

The Great Fire of London **Answers**

1. Where did the Great Fire of London begin?

The fire began in a bakery on Pudding Lane, in London.

2. On what date did the fire begin?

The fire began on Sunday 2nd September, 1666.

3. What did the baker forget to do?

The baker forgot to put out the fire he had used to bake the bread.

4. What did the people use to fight the fire?

People used leather buckets and water from the River Thames to try to fight the fire.

5. Where did some people take their families and their belongings?

People took their families and belongings onto boats on the river.

6. Give two reasons why the fire spread easily.

The fire spread so easily because the buildings in London were all made of wood and built very close together.

7. What were the new buildings made of?

The new buildings were made out of brick.

The Great Fire of London

In the early hours of Sunday 2nd September, 1666, a fire started in the bakery on Pudding Lane. Thomas Farriner, the baker, had forgotten to put out the fire he had made to bake the bread. The fire got out of control and before long, the bakery was alight. The fire then quickly spread to nearby buildings.

The buildings in London at that time were made of wood and were built very close together, which meant the fire could spread easily from one building to the next.



Did You Know...?

Even after the Great Fire of London, a national fire service was not formed until 1866.

There were no firefighters in 1666, so the people in the city had to fight the fire themselves. They used leather buckets filled with water from the River Thames, but this didn't work very well. The wind was strong and it was helping to spread the fire. Soon, people were running from the fire, taking their belongings onto boats on the river.

On Tuesday, the fire destroyed St Paul's Cathedral.

Luckily, on Wednesday, the wind wasn't as strong and this helped to slow the fire down. The people were able to fight it with buckets of water and by pulling down buildings in the path of the fire, to stop the flames spreading. Soon after, the fire was finally put out.

Much of London had been destroyed by the fire and had to be rebuilt.

The new buildings were made of brick and were built further apart to try to stop any future fire from spreading so far.



The Great Fire of London

Answer the following questions using full sentences.

1. When did the Great Fire of London begin?

2. Where did the fire start?

3. What was the name of the baker?

4. Why did the people of the city have to fight the fire?

5. Why did the fire spread so easily? Give two reasons.

6. On what day did the fire destroy St Paul's Cathedral?

7. What were the new buildings made from? Why?

8. When was the first fire service started?

9. How do you think the people of London felt when the city was on fire?

The Great Fire of London **Answers**

1. When did the Great Fire of London begin?

The fire began on Sunday 2nd September, 1666.

2. Where did the fire start?

The fire started in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane.

3. What was the name of the baker?

The baker's name was Thomas Farriner.

4. Why did the people of the city have to fight the fire?

The people of the city had to fight the fire because there were no firefighters in 1666.

5. Why did the fire spread so easily? Give two reasons.

The fire spread easily because the buildings in London at that time were made of wood and were built very close together.

6. On what day did the fire destroy St Paul's Cathedral?

St Paul's Cathedral was destroyed on Tuesday.

7. What were the new buildings made from? Why?

The new buildings were made from brick to try to stop any future fire from spreading so far.

8. When was the first fire service started?

The first fire services were started after the Great Fire of London, in 1866.

9. How do you think the people of London felt when the city was on fire?

Accept any reasonable response.

The Great Fire of London

In 1666, London was very different to how it is now. The buildings were made of wood and were packed tightly together. It had been a long, hot summer and the wooden buildings were very dry.



Did You Know...?

After the Great Fire of London, many different insurance companies, volunteer groups and parish authorities set up their own firefighting services to protect buildings during fires.



The buildings had firemarks; these were used to identify which buildings were covered by each company. If there was a fire, several fire brigades would attend. But they would only fight the fire if their company insured it!

Eventually, in 1866, these brigades merged and became the first fire service.

In the early hours of Sunday 2nd September, 1666, a fire started in the bakery on Pudding Lane. Thomas Farriner, the baker, had forgotten to put out the fire he had used to bake the bread. The fire soon got out of control and before long the bakery was alight. The fire then quickly spread to nearby buildings.

There was no fire service in 1666 and firefighting was very basic. Leather buckets, axes and water squirts were used to fight the flames. These were of little use against the fire because the strong wind was fanning the flames quicker than the fire could be fought.



On Monday, the fire was still raging throughout the city. People began to panic and to move their families and belongings to safety using boats on the river. The inferno continued through Tuesday, when it destroyed St Paul's Cathedral.



On Wednesday, the wind began to die down. The flames spread less quickly and people were able to fight the fire with more success.

The people also began to pull down buildings in the path of the fire, to stop the flames spreading. It was Thursday before the fire was successfully stopped.

The fire had been a disaster. Six people died and thousands of people were made homeless.

When London was rebuilt, the planners made sure that the buildings were made from brick and were built further apart to try to prevent any future fire from spreading so far.



The Great Fire of London

Answer the following questions using full sentences.

1. When did the Great Fire of London begin?

2. Where did the fire start?

3. What started the Great Fire of London?

4. Give 3 reasons why the fire spread as quickly as it did.

5. What did people fight fires with in 1666?

6. Which building was destroyed on Tuesday?

7. What helped to stop the fire?

8. How did London change when it was rebuilt? Why?

9. How do you think the people of London felt after the fire was put out? Why?

The Great Fire of London **Answers**

1. When did the Great Fire of London begin?

The fire began on Sunday 2nd September, 1666.

2. Where did the fire start?

The fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane.

3. What started the Great Fire of London?

The baker forgot to put the fire out that he had used to bake the bread. It got out of control and set fire to the bakery.

4. Give 3 reasons why the fire spread as quickly as it did.

Possible answers:

- **The fire spread quickly because the buildings were made of wood.**
- **The buildings were built very close together.**
- **It had also been a long, hot summer and the wooden buildings were very dry.**
- **The wind was strong.**
- **There were no fire services and firefighting was basic.**

5. What did people do to try to stop the fire?

Leather buckets, axes and water squirts were used to fight the flames. The people also began to pull down buildings in the path of the fire, to stop the flames spreading.

6. Which building was destroyed on Tuesday?

St Paul's Cathedral was destroyed on Tuesday.

7. What helped to stop the fire?

The wind died down. This meant that the flames spread less quickly and people were able to fight the fire with more success. The people also began to pull down buildings in the path of the fire, to stop the flames spreading.

8. How did London change when it was rebuilt? Why?

When London was rebuilt, the buildings were made from brick and were built further apart to try to prevent any future fire from spreading so far.

9. How do you think the people of London felt after the fire was put out? Why?

Accept any reasonable response. Look for children explaining their thinking.