

The Great Fire of London

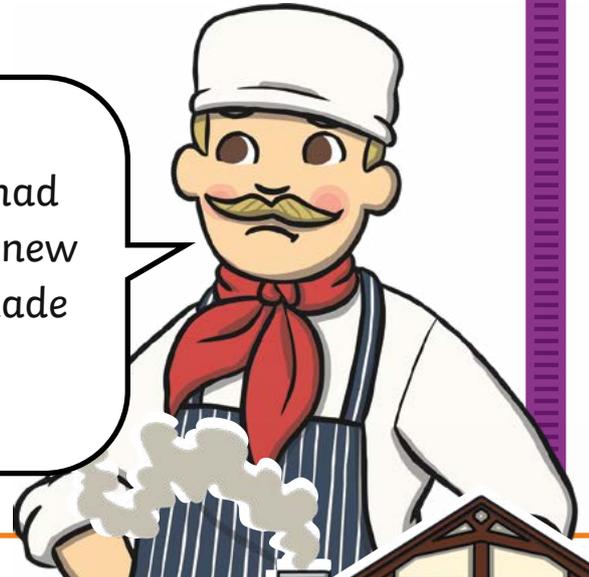
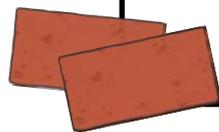
On Sunday 2nd September 1666, a fire began in a bakery on Pudding Lane, London. The baker had forgotten to put out the fire he had used to bake his bread.

There were no firefighters in 1666 so people had to try to put the fire out with water from the River Thames.



This didn't work very well so people began to run from the fire. On Wednesday, the wind died down and the people used water to fight the fire.

Most of London had to be rebuilt. The new buildings were made out of brick.



Did You Know...?

In 1666, the buildings in London were all made of wood and were built very close together.



Questions

1. When did the Great Fire of London begin? Tick one.

Monday 2nd June 1666

Sunday 2nd September 1666

Saturday 2nd August 1666

2. Where did the Great Fire of London begin? Tick one.

a house on Pudding Lane

a shop on Pudding Lane

a bakery on Pudding Lane

3. What did the baker forget to do? Tick one.

put out the fire he had used to bake his bread

sweep up the coal

turn the lights off

4. In 1666 London, what material were the buildings made out of?
Tick one.

bricks

wood

steel

5. What did people use to put the fires out? Tick one.

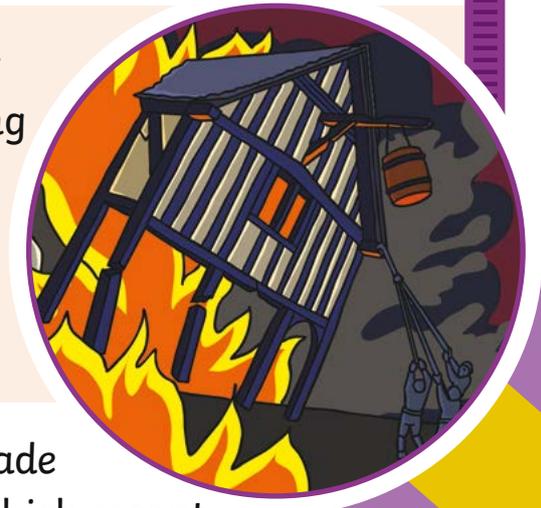
water from the tap

water from a pond

water from the River Thames

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 that he had made to bake his bread. Before long, the bakery was alight.



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

There were no firefighters in 1666 so the people in the city had to fight the fire themselves, using leather buckets filled with water from the River Thames. This didn't work very well.

On Sunday evening, they started pulling down houses to stop the fire from spreading, as the strong wind was helping to spread the blaze. 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 so people were able to fight the fire with buckets of water. This helped to stop it from spreading further. 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 out of brick.

Did You Know...?

A man named Samuel Pepys wrote about the Great Fire in his diaries, which is why we know so much about what happened.



Questions

1. What was the name of the baker on Pudding Lane? Tick one.

Thomas Pudding

Thomas Lane

Thomas Farriner

2. Why did the people in the city have to fight the fire?

3. Number the statements below from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in the text. The first one has been done for you.

	The bakery was alight.
	They started pulling down houses to stop the fire from spreading, as the strong wind was helping to spread the blaze.
	People in the city had to fight the fire themselves, using leather buckets filled with water from the River Thames.
1	A fire started in the bakery on Pudding Lane.

4. Find and copy one word which means 'built again'.

5. Who wrote about the fire in his diaries? Tick one.

The Lord Mayor of London

Samuel Pepys

Thomas Farriner

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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 his bread.

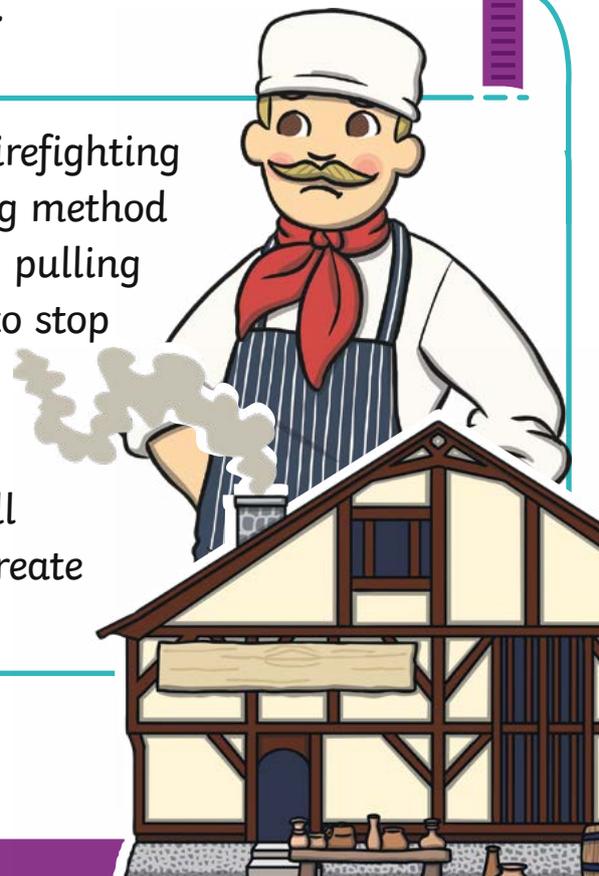
The fire soon got out of control and before long, the bakery was alight. The fire then quickly spread to nearby buildings.



In 1666, London was very different to how it is now. It had been a long, hot summer and the buildings were very dry. As the buildings were made of wood, and because they were packed tightly together, the fire easily spread from one building to the next.

There was no formal fire service in 1666 and firefighting methods were very basic. The main firefighting method was to create 'firebreaks'. These were made by pulling down houses in the path of the flames to try to stop the fire from spreading.

The Lord Mayor of London did not like this as he was worried about the cost of rebuilding all the houses. By the time he gave the order to create the firebreaks, the fire was out of control.



People of London used leather buckets, axes and water squirts 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.



Luckily, on Wednesday, the wind wasn't as strong so people were able to fight the fire with buckets of water from the River Thames. This stopped the flames from spreading further. Soon after, the fire was finally put out.

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 'fire marks', which 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!

Did You Know...?

A man named Samuel Pepys wrote about the Great Fire in his diaries, which is why we know so much about what happened.



Questions

1. Fill in the missing word.

The Lord Mayor of London did not like this as he was worried about the cost of _____ all the houses.

2. What did the people of London use to fight the fire? Tick **two**.

leather buckets

teaspoons

axes

3. Put ticks in the table to show which sentences are **true** and which are **false**. The first one has been done for you.

Sentence	True	False
In the early hours of Sunday 2 nd September 1666, a fire started in the bakery on Pudding Lane.	✓	
Buildings were spread out with lots of space between them.		
There was no fire service in 1666.		
After the Great Fire of London, parish authorities set up their own firefighting services.		

4. What were used to identify which buildings were covered by each insurance company?
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5. Who wrote about the fire in his diaries?

6. Use the text to retell what happened during the Great Fire of London.
