

Knowledge Organiser: The Great Fire of London

Year 2 Term 1.1
History

Important Topic Vocabulary

drought	A shortage of rain over a long period of time.
gunpowder	An explosive substance used to cause explosions.
cathedral	The main church in a city. They are normally very large and can hold many people.
fire service	A group of people who are trained to safely put fires out.
fire hook	A tool used to pull buildings down during a fire.
breathing apparatus	A piece of equipment that provides air to a person in a place where it is difficult or dangerous to breathe.

What should I already know?

I should know that firefighters are people who help to keep us safe.

I should know that Florence Nightingale was a famous nurse who helped show nurses how to look after people who are sick.

When was the Great Fire of London?

- The Great Fire of London started on 2nd September 1666 and it lasted for four days.
- The fire started in Thomas Farynor's bakery on Pudding Lane.
- The fire quickly spread over much of London because the weather was warm and windy.
- The buildings were built very close together and the wind helped spread the flames from building to building.
- The buildings were also made out of wood and straw and these materials burnt very easily.

Key People



Samuel Pepys

During the Great Fire of London Samuel Pepys wrote in his diary every day. His diary is the most accurate account of the fire that we have today.



Thomas Farynor

Thomas owned the bakery where the fire started. He managed to escape from the fire with his family. Sadly, his maid did not.



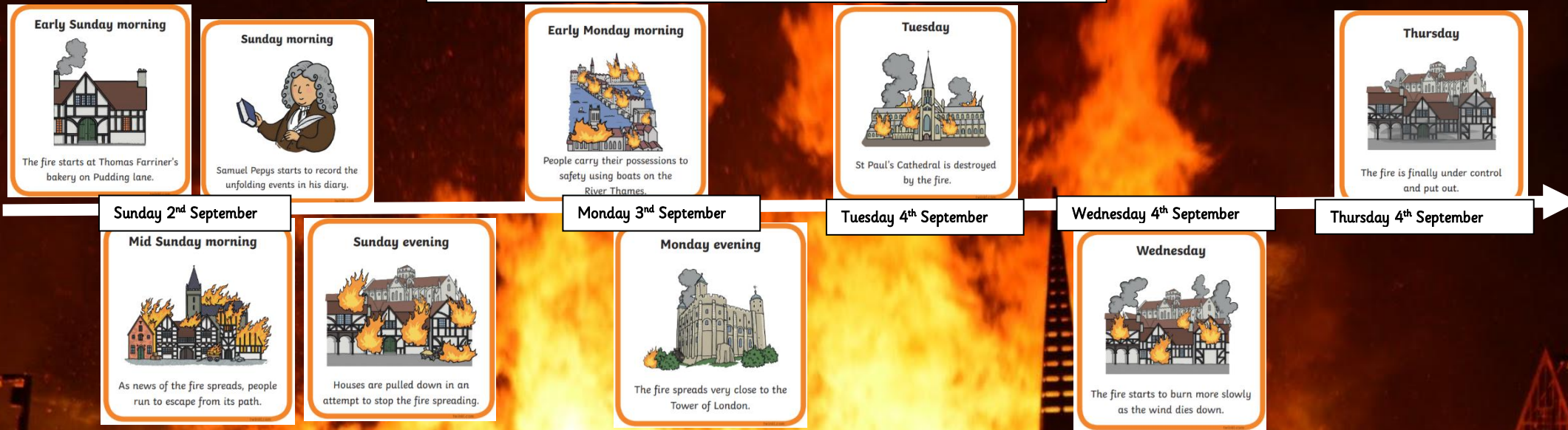
King Charles II

King Charles II was the king during the time of the fire. He asked people to pull down the buildings to stop the fire from spreading.

How did they put the fire out?

- In 1666, there was no fire service so people had to try and put the fire out themselves.
- They used leather buckets filled with water from the River Thames and water squirts to try and put the fire out. Unfortunately, this did not work.
- King Charles II ordered people to pull the buildings down with fire hooks and asked the Navy to use gunpowder to blow up some of the buildings. This stopped the fire from spreading from building to building.
- Finally, on Thursday 6th September, the wind stopped blowing so people could put the fires out.
- Sadly, much of London had been destroyed and many people were left homeless.

The Great Fire of London Timeline – September 1666



Suggested Activities

- Bake some bread just like Thomas Farynor, you can find lots of recipes on the internet.
- Paint a picture of the fire using lots of bright colours.
- Write a diary as if you were alive during the Great Fire of London.
- Research how the fire service has changed since the Great Fire of London.

Brilliant Books and Useful Websites

<http://www.fireoflondon.org.uk/>

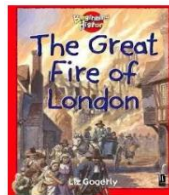
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/37253903>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5eVlKWSHAA>

Beginning History: The Great Fire of London by Liz Gogerly

Usborne: The Great Fire of London by Susanna David and Rick Fairlamb

Vlad and the Great Fire of London by Kate Cunningham



Another Fire in London!

It is important to realise that The Great Fire of London is not the only fire to ever happen in London. During your lifetime, on 14th June 2017, the Grenfell Tower fire took place.

The fire spread very quickly throughout the building and unfortunately killed 72 people, and injured many more. However, unlike The Great Fire of London the Grenfell Tower fire did not spread to any other buildings or places in London. This was because buildings are no longer made of wood, like they were during the Great Fire of London, as wood burns very easily. Firefighters now also have better equipment to fight fires and wear special clothing to protect themselves.