

The Great Fire of London

1666

History

Year 2 – Term 3

What have we learned previously?

- Historians learn about the past by looking at **sources of evidence**.
- On 5th November 1605, **Guy Fawkes** was part of the **Gunpowder Plot**. He wanted to blow up the Houses of Parliament. He was caught and hung. We celebrate his capture and execution by celebrating **Bonfire Night**.
- **Christopher Columbus** was an explorer and the first European to reach America by ship. This happened in 1492, over 500 years ago. Lots of people think that Columbus and his men treated the natives of America horribly.

How did the Great Fire of London start?

The fire started in a bakery on **Pudding Lane**. Historians think it may have started when a spark landed on some fuel in the middle of the night.



Why did the Great Fire burn down so many houses?

The houses in **1666** were made mostly of wood. They were built very close together which made the fire easy to spread.



What happened during the Great Fire?

The fire continued for five days and burnt down thousands of houses, churches and other buildings.

Many people escaped across the river.



Only 6 people were recorded as dying in the fire, but thousands were made homeless.

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How did Londoners try to stop the spread of the fire?

Londoners made **bucket chains** using water from the river.

Houses were blown up using **gunpowder** or pulled down to stop the spread of the fire.

What happened to the survivors of the Great Fire?

Those who survived had to live in tents and shanty houses until the rebuilding of their homes was complete. This took several years for some people.

Some Londoners left the city and never returned.

How was London rebuilt after the Great Fire?

London was redesigned after the Great Fire. King Charles II asked famous designers and architects like **Sir Christopher Wren** to redesign London.

London was rebuilt out of mostly stone and the streets were not as cramped as they had been before.



How have historians learned about the Great Fire of London?



Diaries were written by **Samuel Pepys** and **John Evelyn** that describe what happened during the fire.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Published by Authority.

From Monday, Septemb 3, to Monday, Septemb 10, 1666.

THE ordinary course of this paper having been interrupted by a sad and lamentable accident of Fire lately hapnd in the City of London: it hath been thought fit for satisfying the minds of so many of His Majesties Good Subjects who must needs be concerned for the Issue of so great an accident, to give this short, but true Account of it. On the second instant, at one of the clock in the Morning, there hapnd to break out, a sad in

Church, near Holborn-bridge, Pit-corner, Aldersgate, Cripple-gate, near the lower end of Coleman-street, at the end of Basin-hall-street by the Postern at the upper end of Bishopsgate-street and London-hall-street, at the Standard in Cornhill at the church in Fenchurch-street, near Clock-workers Hall in Minning-lane, at the middle of Mark-lane, and at the Tower-dock. On Thursday by the blessing of God it was wholly beat down and extinguished. But so as that Evening it unhappily burst out again a fresh at the Temple, by the falling of some sparks (as is supposed) upon a Pile of Wooden buildings; but

Newspaper reports were written about the fire.

The fire inspired a lot of art work.

