

London's Burning - fact sheet



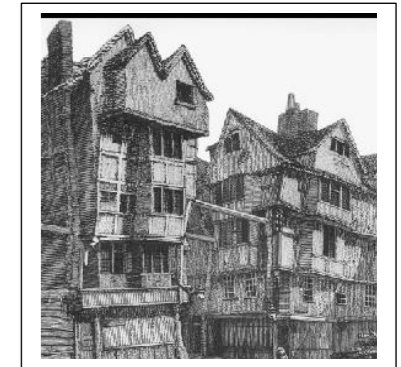
In 1666, a huge fire that started in a tiny bakery burned down most of London - because it was so big, it was called the Great Fire of London. The fire lasted four days, and burned down over 13,000 homes. There are a lot of reasons why the fire was so large, mostly to do with the way houses were built - a lot of them were made from wood.



This is an example of the oven that started the fire.

10 top facts

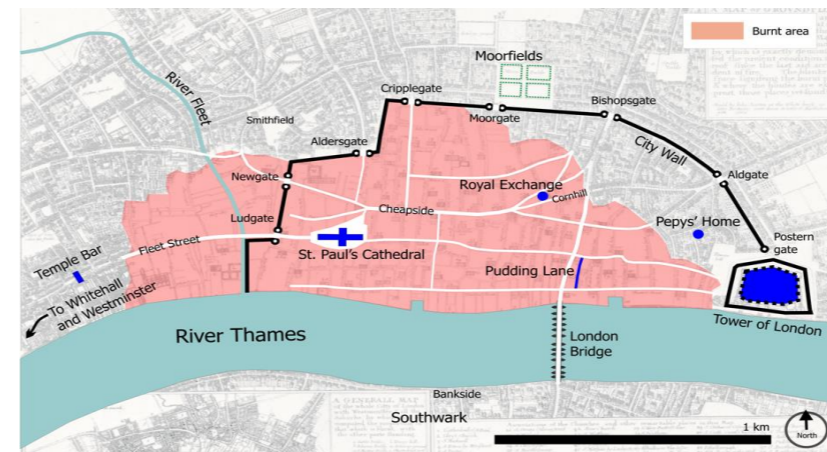
1. The Great Fire of London happened between 2-5 September in 1666.
2. The fire began in a bakery in Pudding Lane.
3. Before the fire began, there had been a drought in London that lasted for 10 months, so the city was very dry.
4. In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood and straw which burned easily. Houses were also built very close together.
5. We know what happened during the fire because people back then wrote about it in letters and newspapers - for instance, Samuel Pepys wrote about it in his diary.
6. Artists who were alive in 1666 painted pictures of the fire afterwards, so we know what it would have looked like if we'd been there too.
7. To fight fires during this time, people would have used leather buckets, metal hooks and water squirts.
8. People whose homes had burned down lived in tents in the fields around London while buildings were rebuilt.
9. When houses were rebuilt, a lot of them were made in bricks instead of wood, and they weren't built so close together.
10. Sir Christopher Wren designed a monument to remember the Great Fire of London, which still stands today.



This is what the houses in London looked like in 1666.

- The huge fire began early in the morning in a tiny bakery on Pudding Lane owned by a man called Thomas Farriner. He'd forgotten to put out the fire in his oven the night before.
- Samuel Pepys was worried that the fire was becoming too large, and asked King Charles II for help.
- Lots of people went to St. Paul's Cathedral to escape from the fire because it was made from stone - stone does not burn. But, some of the roof was made from wood, so this didn't turn out to be a very good plan.
- The fire burnt down a lot of buildings - over 13,000 houses, 87 churches and even St. Paul's Cathedral!
- Houses burned so easily because they were made from wood and straw. Plus, they were built close together along narrow streets, so the fire was able to move around easily and quickly.
- In March 1667, Samuel Pepys wrote that he could still see some cellars that were smoking from the fire - six months after it was put out!

Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723) - Christopher Wren was a famous architect who designed St. Paul's Cathedral. He designed a monument to the Great Fire near where it began on Pudding Lane.



Old St. Paul's on Fire.

Paintings show us what the fire would have looked like.



There was a big argument about how to fight the Great Fire. The fire fighters wanted to tear down houses that might get burned so the fire wouldn't spread so quickly, but the Lord Mayor of London disagreed. In the end, King Charles II had to ask for the houses to be pulled down, but by then the fire had already grown very big.



We know lots about the fire because of Samuel Pepys diary.



We have much better equipment and technology to deal with fires now. This is a picture of a leather bucket that was used to help put out the fire.

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1. The Great Fire of London began on September 2nd, 1666, in a small bakery on the street of St. Dunin's Church. The fire spread rapidly, destroying over 10,000 buildings, including the Palace of Westminster and St. Paul's Cathedral. The fire lasted for several days, and the city was left in ruins.

2. The fire was caused by a combination of factors, including the use of wooden buildings, the presence of a large amount of gunpowder in the city, and the fact that the fire started in a bakery. The fire spread so quickly because of the close proximity of the buildings and the fact that the fire was not contained for several days.

3. The fire was a major disaster for London, and it led to the rebuilding of the city. The fire destroyed over 10,000 buildings, including the Palace of Westminster and St. Paul's Cathedral. The fire lasted for several days, and the city was left in ruins.

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