



Knowledge Organiser for Year 1/2 SUBJECT: The Great Fire of London

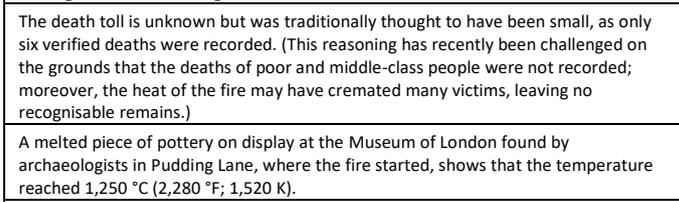
Key idea: To know the cause and impact of the Great Fire of London

Tier 3 vocabulary
Leather bucket: container used for carrying water
Squirt: handheld water pump
Fire posts: areas set up to organise people to fire fight from
Fire hook: metal pole with a hooked end that was used for pulling down buildings that were on fire
Gun powder: explosive powder used to blow up buildings
Thatched roof: dried straw tied tightly together and laid on the roof of a building
Wattle and daub: animal waste, straw and mud used to make walls of buildings
Timber frame: wooden frame of a building that made the walls
Cathedral: the main church of a diocese which has a bishop
Diocese: an area that a church serves
Government: group of people who rule a country

Tier 2 vocabulary
Timeline: the order in which events happened
Source: shows information about the past
Reliable: can be trusted
Douse: put out a fire / pour water on a fire to stop it burning
Embers: burning remains of a fire
Scarce: not enough for what is needed (e.g. water was scarce away from the river)
Extinguished: put out / cause (a fire or light) to stop burning or shining

Key Places
London: capital city of England – largest city in England in the 1660s.
River Thames: river that runs through London
St Paul's Cathedral: The present Cathedral, the masterpiece of Britain's most famous architect Sir Christopher Wren, is at least the fourth to have stood on the site. It was built between 1675 and 1710, after its predecessor was destroyed in the Great Fire of London, and services began in 1697.
London Bridge: bridge that connected London over the River Thames

Key Statistics
It consumed 13,200 houses, 87 parish churches, St Paul's Cathedral, and most of the buildings of the City authorities.
It is estimated to have destroyed the homes of 70,000 of the City's 80,000 inhabitants. By the late 17th century, the City proper (area bounded by the Roman City wall and the River Thames) was only a part of London, and home to about one sixth of London's inhabitants. The City was surrounded by a ring of inner suburbs where most Londoners lived. The City was then, as now, the commercial heart of the capital, and was the largest market and busiest port in England, dominated by the trading and manufacturing classes.
The death toll is unknown but was traditionally thought to have been small, as only six verified deaths were recorded. (This reasoning has recently been challenged on the grounds that the deaths of poor and middle-class people were not recorded; moreover, the heat of the fire may have cremated many victims, leaving no recognisable remains.)
A melted piece of pottery on display at the Museum of London found by archaeologists in Pudding Lane, where the fire started, shows that the temperature reached 1,250 °C (2,280 °F; 1,520 K).



Works of art
<p>The Great Fire of London, depicted by an unknown painter, as it would have appeared from a boat in the vicinity of Tower Wharf on the evening of Tuesday, 4 September 1666. To the left is London Bridge; to the right, the Tower of London. St. Paul's Cathedral is in the distance, surrounded by the tallest flames.</p>

Timeline of events	
Sunday 2 nd September 1666	1am – the fire begins 3am – the Lord Mayor goes to look at the fire but decides it is not too bad so goes back to bed 7am – the fire has spread 11am – the Mayor orders the pulling down of houses having been instructed by King Charles II, who was informed by Samuel Pepys 3pm – the King sails down the River Thames to observe the fire
Monday 3 rd September 1666	The government order fire posts to be set up. A group of school boys successfully hold back the fires. Midday – the fire can be seen 60 miles away in Oxford.
Tuesday 4 th September 1666	The fire reaches its peak. It spread from Temple in the west, to the Tower of London in the east (where gun powder was used to blow up houses in order to stop the fire reaching the Tower). A number of prisons in London were destroyed by the fire as was St. Paul's Cathedral. 11pm – the wind begins to die down
Wednesday 5 th September 1666	The wind changes direction, blowing the fire towards the River Thames. Most of the remaining fires have been put out.
Thursday 6 th September 1666	The final fires are extinguished.

K11: Know what London was like in the 17 th century
People: nobility, gentry, yeomen & farmers who owned their own land, mass of the population e.g. craftsmen, tenant farmers and labours, poor and slums. Average life expectancy was 35. Out of all people born, between 1/3 and 1/2 died before the age of 16. However, if you could survive your teens, you were likely to live to your 50s/60s.
Places: London was a lot smaller
Foods: end of 17 th century it was estimated that 50% could afford to eat meat every day – half the population were reasonably well off. 30% could eat it twice a week – classed as poor. People began eating with forks for the first time in 1600s. Rich people began eating: bananas and pineapples, drinks: chocolate, tea and coffee. Coffee houses first appeared. Poor people: bread, cheese, onions, pottage (boiling grain in water to make a kind of pottage) – if they could afford it, they could add vegetables, meat or fish.
Lifestyle: early 17 th century piped water supply was created but had to pay to be connected and it wasn't cheap (lead piping). 1600 people walked or travelled by boat if they could afford it. 1610 ish you could hire a horse-drawn carriage (hackney carriage). 1680s streets were lit for the first time with an oil lamp on every 10 th house. Toothbrushes came in – from Chinese.
Housing: many rich people left money in their wills to provide Almshouses for the poor. Rich, grand houses were built in the West and working class houses in the East. Glass windows were a luxury – poor people had linen covered in linseed oil.
Economy: became steadily richer because of industries like glass, brick making, iron and coal mining, wool trading. Trade was important.
Political: power was held by the rich landowners.

K12: Know the cause of the Great Fire of London
See timeline events. Knowing the conditions that fire needs to burn: oxygen, heat and fuel source.

K13: Know how fires were extinguished in the 17 th century
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>Image 1 shows firehooks being used to pull down a house. Image 2 shows a small manoeuvrable early fire engine used occasionally in the 17th century.</p>

K14: Know the impact of the Great Fire of London
Houses were built near together and made of flammable materials so that the fire spread easily. Over the years, this brought about changes in legislation on the building of houses in England which is why this is a significant event of the past. These changes however were largely ignored until drastic events like the GfL. After the GfL, London Fire Brigade was set up to help prevent disasters like this from happening again.

K15: Understand some of the ways we find out about the past and identify ways in which it can be presented
The personal experiences of many Londoners during the fire are glimpsed in letters and memoirs. Many unknown artists painted scenes of the fire from the river or the surrounding areas.
Samuel Pepys' diary: recorded the events of the GfL and his own reactions day by day

Important people of the past
King Charles II- A contemporary account said that King Charles in person worked manually, on Monday afternoon/evening, to help throw water on flames and to help demolish buildings to make a firebreak.
Samuel Pepys: (1633-1703) was an administrator of the navy of England and Member of Parliament who is most famous for the diary he kept for a decade which included the events of the GfL.