



### What should I already know?

- London is the capital city of England.
- I live in England in the Forest of Dean.
- Today we have a fire service to help put out fires.

### History

Historians are like detectives; they are curious and ask important questions about the past.

### Technical vocabulary

<b>London</b>	capital city of England – largest city in England in the 1660s.
<b>past</b>	Something that has already happened
<b>Present</b>	Something that is happening now
<b>Historical source</b>	Something that shows or gives information about the past
<b>Diary</b>	A personal record of life's events
<b>Eye-witness</b>	A person who has seen something and can give a description of it

### What was London like in 1666?

In 1666:

- The City of London was full of narrow streets and wooden houses.
- There were no cars or trains in 1666. People travelled on foot or by boat.
- Jobs that were available in London at the time included rat catchers, carpenters and chimney sweeps.

### When, were and how did the fire start?

- The Great Fire of London started in a bakery in Pudding Lane on Sunday 2nd September 1666.
- The baker was called Thomas Farriner.
- The fire started when a spark flew out of the oven.



### Why did the fire spread so quickly?

- It hadn't rained for months so the city was very dry.
- In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood which burns easily.
- Houses were built too close together.
- There was no organised fire brigade.

### How did they fight the fire?

- They used leather buckets and squirts filled with water, axes, fire-hooks and gunpowder to make fire-breaks.
- The fire burned for 4 days. As the wind died down and changed direction the fire became under control and was finally put out.

### How do we know about the Great Fire of London?

- **Eyewitnesses**- Samuel Pepys was an eyewitness to the Great Fire of London. He wrote down what he saw and experienced in a diary.
- **Paintings** can help us to understand the Great Fire of London. There were no photos because cameras hadn't been invented yet.
- **Newspapers**- The London Gazette describes what happened in the fire in 1666.



### What were the key events of the Great Fire of London?

**Monday 3rd September 1666**

The fire gets very close to the Tower of London.

**Tuesday 4th September 1666**

**St Paul's Cathedral** is destroyed by the fire.

**Timeline of Events**

**Sunday 2nd September 1666**

The fire starts at 1 a.m.

Mid-morning: Samuel Pepys starts to write about the fire in his **diary**.

**Wednesday 5th September 1666**

The wind dies down and the fire spreads more slowly.

**Thursday 6th September 1666**

The fire is finally put out.

Thousands of people are left homeless.

