



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

London	capital city of England – largest city in England in the 1660s.
past	Something that has already happened
Present	Something that is happening now
Historical source	Something that shows or gives information about the past
Diary	A personal record of life's events
Eye-witness	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.

