The Great Fire of London

History: Key Events and Facts

Key Events and Facts	
When and where did the fire start?	The fire started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 in Thomas Farriner's **bakery** on Pudding Lane.
Why did the fire start?	The fires used for baking were not put out properly.
Why did the fire spread so quickly?	In 1666, the buildings in London were made of wood and straw and they were very close together, making it easy for the flames to spread. It had also been a dry summer, so the buildings were dry. Strong winds were blowing, which helped the flames to spread.
How did people try to put the fire out?	People used leather buckets and water squirts to try to put the fire out, but these did not work. Later in the week, King Charles II ordered buildings to be pulled down to stop the flames from spreading.
How and when was the fire put out?	By Thursday 6th September, the wind had died down. This meant that people were able to put out the flames.

Samuel Pepys

Samuel lived in London during the time of the Great Fire of London. He wrote a diary that has helped us learn all about the events of the fire.

Thomas Farriner

Thomas was a baker in 17th century London. His bakery in Pudding Lane was the source point for the Great Fire of London on 2 September 1666.

King Charles II (1630-1685)

King Charles was the king of England in 1666. He helped to stop the fire.

Timeline of events

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.

Sunday 2nd September 1666
The fire starts at 1 a.m.
Mid-morning: Samuel Pepys starts to write about the fire in his diary.
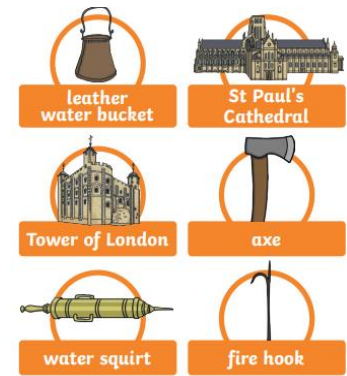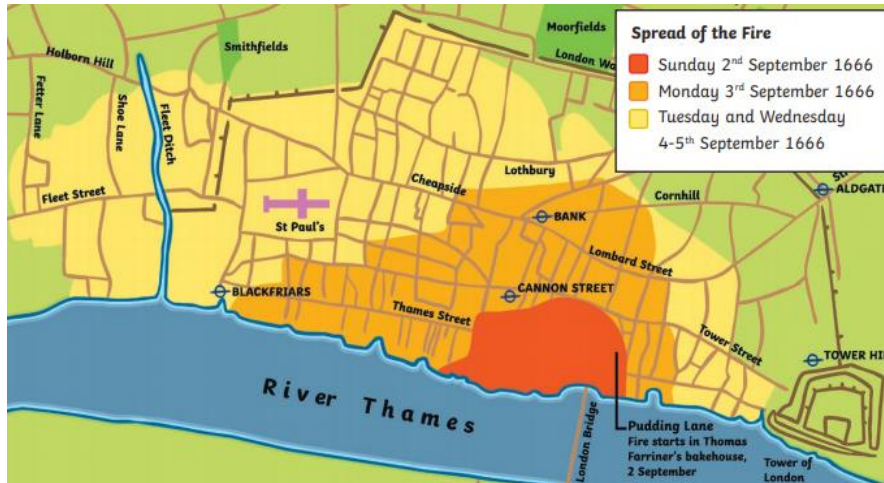
Wednesday 5th September 1666
The wind dies down and the fire spreads more slowly.

Thursday 6th September 1666
The fire is finally put out.
Thousands of people are left homeless.

The spread of the fire

Spread of the Fire
- Sunday 2nd September 1666
- Monday 3rd September 1666
- Tuesday and Wednesday 4-5th September 1666

Pudding Lane
Fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakehouse, 2 September

leather water bucket | St Paul's Cathedral
Tower of London | axe
water squirt | fire hook

Enquiry questions:

How do we know about the Great Fire of London?

What caused the Great Fire of London to spread?

Key Vocabulary	
Bakery	A place that makes bread, cakes, etc.
St Paul's Cathedral	A very large church in London. A new St Paul's Cathedral was built after the fire.
Diary	A book that people write about their lives in.
Firebreak	A gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings.
Moorfields	A piece of open land in the centre of London where people fled to for safety.
Seething Lane	The street that Samuel Pepys lived on.