

The Great Fire of London

On Sunday 2nd September, 1666, a fire began in a bakery on Pudding Lane, in London. The baker had forgotten to put out the fire he had used to bake his bread.



Did You Know...?

In 1666, the buildings in London were all made of wood and built very close together, which meant the fire could spread easily.

The fire soon started to spread to other buildings. On Sunday evening, buildings were pulled down to try and stop the fire spreading. There were no firefighters in 1666, so people had to try to put the fire out themselves, using leather buckets and water from the River Thames. This didn't work very well. Soon, people began to run from the fire, taking their families and belongings onto boats on the river.

The fire carried on spreading on Monday and Tuesday. Luckily, on Wednesday, the wind stopped and the people were able to fight the fire with water.

The fire destroyed large parts of London, which had to be rebuilt. The new buildings were made out of brick.



Did You Know...?

Even after the Great Fire of London, a fire service was not formed until 1866.

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Answer the following questions using full sentences.

1. Where did the Great Fire of London begin?

2. On what date did the fire begin?

3. What did the baker forget to do?

4. What did the people use to fight the fire?

5. Where did some people take their families and their belongings?

6. Give two reasons why the fire spread easily.

7. What were the new buildings made of?
