

Autumn Term 1 Year 2 History Overview

Key facts

The Great Fire of London happened between 2-5 September in 1666. The fire began in a bakery in Pudding Lane. Before the fire began, there had been a drought in London that lasted for 10 months, so the city was very dry. In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood and straw which burned easily. Houses were also built very close together. We know what happened during the fire because people back then wrote about it in letters and newspapers – for instance, Samuel Pepys wrote about it in his diary. Artists who were alive in 1666 painted pictures of the fire afterwards, so we know what it would have looked like if we'd been there too. To fight fires during this time, people would have used leather buckets, metal hooks and water squirts. People whose homes had burned down lived in tents in the fields around London while buildings were rebuilt. When houses were rebuilt, a lot of them were made in bricks instead of wood, and they weren't built so close together. Sir Christopher Wren designed a monument to remember the Great Fire of London, which still stands today.

The Great Fire of London

Brief summary/ overview

In 1666, a huge fire that started in a tiny bakery burned down most of London. The fire was so big that it was called the Great Fire of London. The fire lasted four days, and burned down over 13,000 homes. There are a lot of reasons why the fire was so large, mostly to do with the way houses were built – a lot of them were made from wood, and were very close together.

Prior Knowledge

Communicate historically – using historical language, studying pictures, researching famous people from the past

Key Vocabulary

Fire, Smoke, London, Broken, Spread, Spark, Thatched roof, Crackling, Fire hose, Blaze, Pudding Lane, Destroyed, Flammable, Possessions, Fire squirt, Samuel Pepys

Resources

BBC clips

Samuel Pepys diary entries.

Worcestershire history box 'Pepys, pudding and Pox'.

Cross curricular links/visits

Science- Materials