Key Vocabulary

Bakery - a place that makes bread, cakes etc. **Diary** - a book that people write about their lives in

Eyewitness - a person who has seen something and can give description of it

Firebreak - a gap that stops a fire spreading to nearby buildings

Fire squirt - an object made from brass that looks like a syringe and was used to suck up water to squirt onto the fire

Fire hooks - giant hooks used to pull down buildings

Flammable - when something burns easily Embers - small pieces of coal or wood in a dying fire

Leather bucket - leather was used to make buckets before plastic was invented

Oven - where food is cooked. In 1666 wood was burned to heat it

Thatched roof - a roof made from straw and reeds **London** - the capital city of England

The River Thames - a large river in London which was used for escaping

St. Paul's Cathedral - a very large Christian church which burnt down during the fire. It was rebuilt using designs by Sir Christopher Wren and still stands today

Tower of London - where King Charles II lived in 1666. The fire was put out just before it reached the palace

Pudding Lane - the street where the fire started **Monument** - a structure like a building or statue to remember an event. Sir Christopher Wren designed a monument to remember the Great Fire **Images** - there were no cameras so artists painted the scene afterwards

Where did the fire start?

The fire started in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. The fire lasted for 4 days. It started because the fires used for baking were not properly extinguished.

How many people died?

6 people died as a result of the fire. Farriner's maid was the first to die as she was too scared to jump from the burning building





What should I know already?

That events happened in the past a long time ago.

I understand what a monarchy is

By the end of this unit I will know....

When the fire started and the timeline of events
How the Great Fire of London started and the impact it had on the way houses are built today
Who Samuel Pepys and Charles II are and their importance during and after the Great Fire
How the firefighting brigades changed for the better

Key Questions

Why did the fire spread so quickly?

The weather was hot and it hadn't rained for 10 months. The houses were built from wood and straw which is flammable especially in dry conditions. The houses were also very close together. There were also strong winds that helped to fan the flames.

How did they fight the fire?

People used leather buckets and water squirts to try to put the fire out. Later that week King Charles II ordered buildings to be pulled down to stop the fire from spreading any further.

What happened afterwards?

The fire destroyed 13,200 houses and 70,000 people became homeless. Some slept in tents but many left London to live elsewhere. An organised fire brigade was established and water engines were designed so they gave a continuous stream of water when pumped.



The Great Fire of London

Key People

Samuel Pepys

1633 - 1703

King Charles II

1630 - 1685



Samuel lived in London during the Great Fire. He wrote about it in his diary which is why we know so much about it.



King Charles II was the king of England in 1666. After the fire he made a decree that houses should be built further apart and made from stone not wood.

Timeline of Events

Sunday 2nd September 1666 A fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane in the early hours. As news of the fire spreads people run to escape Monday 3rd September 1666
Fire fighters try to tackle the fire but it spreads quickly. People use horse & carts or boats on the river to carry their possessions to safety

Tuesday 4th September 1666
Houses are pulled down in an attempt to stop the fire spreading. St Paul's Cathedral is destroyed.

Wednesday 5th September 1666 The fires start to burn more slowly as the winds die down. Thursday 6th September 1666 The fire is finally under control and is extinguished.

<u>History Skills</u>

Year 3 and Year 4

- Ask questions, select and evaluate evidence and make judgements about the past
- Understand that events do not just happen and then end. Know why The GFoL happened and explain that the fire caused further issues (consequences), the ripple effect through time.
- Confidently describe the key features of the past, and communicate how life is different now. Give reasons why some events are more significant than others.
- Sequence, events, stories, pictures and periods over time to show how different times relate to each other and contribute to a coherent understanding of the past.
- Know how historians use sources as evidence to construct, challenge or test claims about the past.