

# The Great Fire of London



**The Great Fire of London** started in the early hours of the morning of 2 September 1666, in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane. By 5 September the fire had destroyed more than 13,000 houses and buildings in the city, including 87 churches and the famous St Paul's Cathedral. The fire spread quickly, destroying most of the buildings in its path. The way houses were built, the lack of an effective and organised firefighting service and the weather in the days before, all played their part in this terrible event.

## Quick summary

### Modern London and the location of the Great Fire of London



Location



Settlements

Over many **decades**, the city of London had become very busy with many poorly built houses sitting close to each other in **congested** maze-like streets. With so many **flammable** wood-and-tar buildings, some think it was only a matter of time before a fire as serious as this broke out. When the great fire was over, King Charles II ordered the city to be rebuilt with brick and stone. Famous **architects** drew plans for the rebuilding project, including Christopher Wren who designed St Paul's Cathedral.



Main events

- 2 September 1666:** Fire broke out in a bakery on Pudding Lane
- 3 September:** People started to leave the city, many by boats on the Thames
- 4 September:** The fire was so great it could be seen as far away as Oxford
- 5 September:** Wind died down and fire stopped spreading



Artefacts

An **eyewitness**, Samuel Pepys, wrote a recount of the fire in his famous diary. **Extracts** from his diary help us to learn more about how the fire started, what was done to try and stop it, and what happened afterwards.



Vocabulary

- decades:** periods of ten years
- congested:** crowded and blocked
- flammable:** easily set on fire
- architects:** people who design buildings
- eyewitness:** a person who was at an event and describes it to others
- extract:** a short passage



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

