

The Great Fire of London: Flashcard Revision

Learning objective: To recall and evaluate key facts about the causes, events, and consequences of the Great Fire of London in 1666.

Read the front of the card to test your memory. Then, flip to check the answer provided after the pipe symbol. Use these to challenge a partner or quiz yourself.

In what year did the Great Fire of London begin?	Where did the fire start?
1666.	In a bakery on Pudding Lane.
Which famous person kept a diary detailing the events of the fire?	Why did the fire spread so quickly across the city?
Samuel Pepys.	London was built mostly of timber houses with thatched roofs, which were very dry after a long, hot summer.
What was the main method used to try and stop the fire from spreading further?	How did the weather conditions contribute to the disaster?
Creating firebreaks by pulling down houses to leave a gap the fire could not cross.	A strong, dry easterly wind fanned the flames and pushed the fire towards the center of London.
What famous landmark was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren after being destroyed in the fire?	What was one major change in building regulations after the fire?
St Paul's Cathedral.	Houses had to be built from brick or stone instead of wood to prevent future fires.
How did the fire affect the population of London?	How did the fire eventually come to an end?
It made thousands of people homeless, forcing them to live in camps in fields outside the city walls.	The strong winds died down and the firebreaks finally stopped the flames from advancing further.
Compare and contrast: How does the construction of modern London houses differ from those in 1666?	What might have happened if the fire had started during a rainy season?
Modern homes use fire-resistant materials like brick, concrete, and fire-retardant insulation, unlike the flammable timber and pitch used in the 17th century.	The timber buildings would have been damp, which might have prevented the fire from igniting or spreading as rapidly, potentially saving most of the city.