

The Great Fire of London: Flashcard Challenge

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

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of the 1666 Great Fire. Review the terms on the front, then flip to check your understanding of the definitions and historical significance.

In what year did the Great Fire of London begin?

1666.

Where did the fire start on Sunday 2nd September?

A bakery on Pudding Lane.

Who kept a famous diary that provides historians with a primary source account of the fire?

Samuel Pepys.

What type of building material made the houses in London particularly vulnerable to fire?

Timber (wood) and pitch.

What strategy did the King order to stop the fire from spreading by destroying buildings in its path?

Creating firebreaks (demolishing houses to leave a gap).

Which famous landmark was destroyed and later rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren?

St Paul's Cathedral.

What was the main reason the fire spread so rapidly?

The city was overcrowded, the summer had been very dry, and strong winds fanned the flames.

What structure was built to commemorate the Great Fire and stands near the site of the original bakery?

The Monument.

Why were the narrow streets of 17th-century London a disadvantage during the fire?

The houses were built very close together with 'jettied' upper floors that nearly touched, allowing fire to jump easily between buildings.

How did the reconstruction of London change after the fire to improve safety?

Buildings were required to be constructed from brick or stone instead of wood to prevent future infernos.