The Great Fire of London: Flashcard Challenge

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

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of the Great Fire of London. Read the front of the card, try to remember the answer, then reveal the back.

In what year did the Great Fire of London begin?

1666.

Where did the Great Fire of London start?

A bakery in Pudding Lane.

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

Samuel Pepys.

Why did the fire spread so quickly through the city?

The houses were made of timber and pitch, were built very close together, and it had been a very dry summer.

Who was the monarch during the Great Fire of London?

King Charles II.

What major landmark, designed by Christopher Wren, had to be rebuilt after the fire?

St Paul's Cathedral.

What simple tool or method did people use to try to create firebreaks?

They used fire hooks to pull down houses or used gunpowder to blow them up to stop the fire spreading.

How did the fire finally start to die down?

The strong winds dropped and the firebreaks created by blowing up houses stopped the flames from spreading further.

What was built to commemorate the Great Fire of London?

The Monument to the Great Fire of London.

Why did the plague (the Great Plague of 1665) arguably become less of a threat after the fire?

The fire destroyed many of the overcrowded, unsanitary wooden houses and the rats that carried the plague.

What new building material became mandatory for new houses in London after the fire?

Brick or stone, to make buildings more fire-resistant.