

Key Knowledge

In 1666, a huge fire started in a **bakery** on Pudding Lane. It burned down most of **London**.

The fire lasted 4 days.

There had been a **drought** (it hadn't rained) so the city was very dry.

In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood and straw. These burn easily (they are **flammable**).

Houses were built too close together.

We know what happened because people wrote about it in their own personal diaries and in newspapers.

To fight fires during the 17th Century, people had to use leather buckets and fire hooks. Fire-fighters did not exist. Parts of the city were destroyed by **gun powder** to stop the spread of the fire.

As the wind died down, so did the fire. On Thursday (4 days after the fire started) it was put out.

Year 2 Autumn Term

The Great Fire of London and the Great Plague



Vocabulary	Definition
architect	A person who designs new buildings.
bakery	A place where bread or cakes are made and sold.
cathedral	The main church in a city which has a bishop.
cart	A vehicle with two or four wheels pulled by a horse.
diary	A personal record of life's events.
drought	When it doesn't rain for a long time.
embers	Small pieces of glowing coal or wood in a dying fire.
eye witness	A person who has seen something and can give a description of it.
fire hooks	Wooden poles used to pull down buildings which were on fire.
fire squirt	A device used to suck up water and to squirt it onto a fire.
flammable	Materials that burn easily (like wood and straw)
gun powder	A powder that explodes when you set fire to it.
London	The capital city of England and the United Kingdom.
River Thames	The main river that runs through London.
thatched roof	This is a roof made from dried straw which has been tied tightly together.
wattle and daub	Animal waste, straw and mud used to make the walls of buildings.

Dear Parents,

Our next topic is the Great Fire of London. And the Great Plague. Please help your children to prepare for this topic by helping them to learn the key words (in purple) and the facts on this sheet.

There are some homework activity ideas on the back of this sheet. Your child can complete these at any time. Your child's teacher would love to see what they have created.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Towner and Miss Morris



A picture of a small, early fire engine occasionally used in the 17th Century.

Facts about the Great Fire of London

- 6 people died in the fire.
- 87 churches were destroyed.
- 460 streets were burnt in the fire.
- 13,200 houses were destroyed.
- 100,000 people were made homeless.

Timeline

Early Sunday morning	Mid Sunday morning	Early Monday morning	Late Monday morning	Tuesday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
The fire starts at Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane.	As news of the fire spreads, people run to escape from its path.	People carry their possessions to safety using boats on the River Thames.	Carts are banned from going near the fire.	Houses are pulled down in an attempt to stop the fire spreading.	St Paul's Cathedral is destroyed by the fire.	The fire starts to burn more slowly as the wind dies down.	The fire is finally under control and put out.

The Great Plague

What was the Great Plague?

During the summer of 1665, London was affected by a horrible disease.

This became known as the Great Plague.

People were terrified of the plague, as there was no cure.

It lasted from 1665 until 1666.

Why was there no cure?

At this time, medicine and health care were very different than they are today.

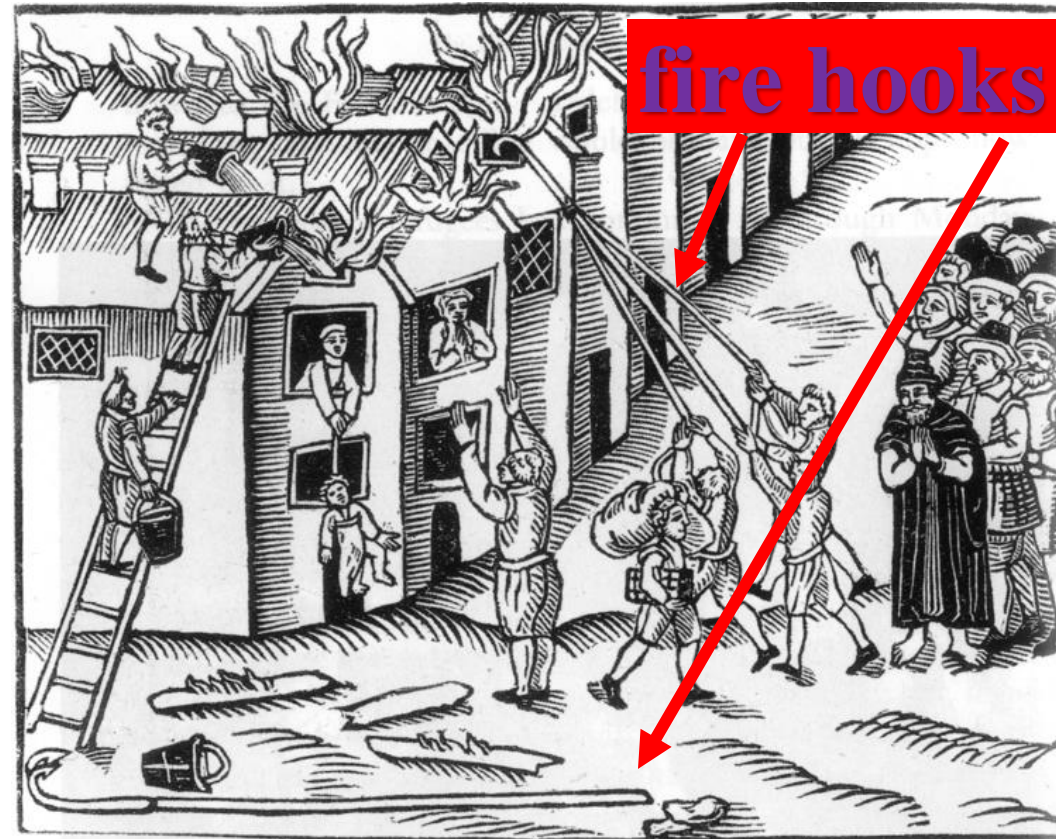
Hygiene was often very poor; towns and villages could be dirty.

People had a different understanding of medicine at this time.



How did the plague spread?

- At first, people were not sure how the plague was spread.
- Some doctors felt that bad air was to blame, and breathing in made people ill.
- Others blamed farm animals for spreading the disease.
- However, the cause of the plague was rats.
- Rats carried bacteria and fleas.
- When the fleas bit people, they infected them.
- When people sneezed and coughed, they spread the disease even more.



A picture showing people fighting a fire in the 17th Century



A fire squirt

This was made from brass. People had to suck up water with it and then squirt it at a fire.

Important People

Thomas Farriner	He owned the bakery (on Pudding Lane) where the fire started.
Thomas Bludworth	He was the Lord Mayor of London.
Samuel Pepys 	He wrote about the great fire of London in a diary. He reported the fire to the King.
King Charles II 	He was the King.
Sir Christopher Wren 	He was the architect who redesigned London after the fire.



Where is London?

Homework ideas

- (1) Draw a picture of an important person such as Samuel Pepys.
- (2) Create a picture of the great fire of London. You could use paint, collage, chalks or felts.
- (3) Make a model of a fire squirt.
- (4) Make a model house or church in London.
- (5) Make a fact poster about one of the important people from this event.
- (6) Imagine saw the great fire of London. Write a diary entry describing what you saw and how you felt.



Remember to bring into school any work you complete at home about this topic.

Thank you parents, for helping to inspire your children at home with these ideas.