








Phase 1 – Great Fire of London

Why did the Fire Spread?

The fire spread because the buildings were **close together**, there was a lot of **wind** to blow the fire to other buildings and because the buildings were made of **wood** (which burns easily).



Timeline of the Fire

Sunday Morning		The fire started on Sunday 2 nd September 1666 in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane. Samuel Pepys started to write about it in his diary.
Sunday Evening		The fire spread easily because the buildings were close together and made out of wood.
Monday Morning		Buildings were pulled down and water was thrown using leather buckets and water squirts. This did not stop the fire and it continued to spread. People escaped on boats on the River Thames with their belongings.
Monday Evening		The fire spread close to the Tower of London.
Tuesday		St. Paul's Cathedral was destroyed in the fire.
Wednesday		The fire started to burn more slowly as the wind died down.
Thursday		The fire stopped as houses had been pulled down to create firebreaks and as the wind had died down.

Samuel Pepys

On 1st January 1660, Samuel Pepys started writing a diary to keep a record of events. It is thanks to his diaries that we know lots about important events from the past, such as King Charles II's coronation, the plague and the Great Fire of London.

Samuel's diary entries about the fire say that he told the King that unless **houses were pulled down**, nothing could stop the fire.

He wrote about how people left London to **escape the fire**, but first **hid their belongings** so others wouldn't steal them. Samuel dug a hole in his garden to hide his cheese and wine!

His diary tells us important information about what buildings were destroyed and **how the fire spread**.



Great Fire of Northampton

When was it?
September 1675

Why did it start?

- Sparks from an open fire on St. Mary's Street.

What was destroyed?

- The town centre
- 850 buildings
- All Saints Church

How long did it last?

- 6 hours

How did people escape?

- They went through the Welsh House on the market square.

Key Vocabulary



ARTEFACT: An ornament, tool or other object that is made by a human being that is historically interesting.



BAKERY: A building where bread, pastries and cakes are baked and/or sold.



DIARY: A book to write down what happens in your life each day.



EYEWITNESS: A person who was at an event and so can describe it.



FIREBREAK: An area of open land that has been created to stop a fire from spreading.



FIRE HOOKS: Poles with hooked metal heads to pull down walls or ceilings.



PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES: Primary sources are original artefacts; secondary sources have been created after the event.



RIVER THAMES: The river that flows through London.