

Great Fire of London

History & Geography

We learn that The Great Fire of London started from a small fire in a bakery on Pudding Lane in 1666. We learn about what life was like then from historical evidence - understanding that this helps us identify differences between life in London now and in the past. We learn that London was rebuilt after the fire and that many of the buildings changed. We look at famous landmarks in London in the past and in the present day, making comparisons.

Prior learning: In Y2 we used Google Maps for aerial views of the physical and human features of a town. In Y1 we learnt about changes caused by people and events in the past such as Grace Darling, Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation and the Moon Landing. In Y1 we had a 'History of Toys' day to learn how toys have changed over the years and we compared them with modern day toys.

Concepts

How places change over time: London was rebuilt after the Great Fire of London destroyed much of the city. It was rebuilt differently so that it could not be destroyed by fire again. Key questions: Why did London burn down so quickly? How did it change?

Personal safety: Fire has many uses but it is dangerous unless we learn how to be safe around it. Key questions: How do you keep safe around fire and who can help us?

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We design and make a timber framed house and a bread roll. We evaluate the finished products against our designs.

Prior learning: In Y1 we made potato latkes as Jewish celebration food in our Theme 'Let it Shine'. We also made a healthy sandwich for the Lighthouse Keeper in our Theme 'I Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside'.

Vocabulary - Key Places & Key People

Archaeologists: Scientists who study the history of humans by looking at what man-made objects were left behind.

Timber framed Tudor houses: These houses were built during the Tudor era in England between 1485–1603 and they have a very distinctive black and white style appearance. They had a wooden frame and the spaces between were filled with small sticks and wet clay. This was called wattle and daub.

The Monument: A stone column designed by Sir Christopher Wren to remember the Great Fire. It is located near where the fire started and is the tallest free-standing column in the world.

Samuel Pepys: He is famous for writing a diary from 1660-1669 about what life was like in the 17th Century and details of the Great Fire of London.

Sir Christopher Wren: He is famous for re-designing the 'new' London after the Great Fire, including the new St Paul's Cathedral and The Monument.

Charles II: He was the monarch at the time of the Great Fire of London.