

History Topic: An important event which brought about change

## The Great Fire of London

About 350 years ago

Year 2

**BEFORE:** There had been a drought in **London**; the city was very dry.

Houses were made from wood and straw which burned easily. The houses were close together. The streets were very dirty.

**WHAT HAPPENED?** The **Great Fire of London** began in a bakery in Pudding Lane. It lasted four days. Samuel Pepys, a member of parliament, wrote about it in his diary.

**AFTER:** London was re-built using bricks and stones. The first fire brigades were formed. We sing the nursery rhyme 'London's burning'.

### 'I am a historian' Concepts

**Enquiry** Ask relevant questions– Why did London burn? How do we know? Where can we find different evidence?

**Interpretation** 'London burnt down' Use evidence– paintings, The Monument in London, Samuel Pepys' diary to find out where, when, how, why.

**Chronology and Communication** Use historical vocabulary: past, present, older, newer, before and after the fire, change, 350 years ago, in 1666, parliament

**Knowledge/understanding** Describe the events **1-6** as part of the nation's history.

### Chronology (Timeline of key Events)

Sunday 2nd September 1666	<b>1. LONDON FIRE</b> at a bakery! Starts in Pudding Lane around midnight.
Sunday morning	<b>2. Hot, dry and windy</b> 300 houses destroyed
Sunday night	<b>3. The King ordered the mayor</b> to pull down houses
Monday	<b>4. Many people tried to escape</b>
Tuesday	Most destructive day
Wednesday	<b>5. Wind dropped</b> Some of the fire put out
Thursday	<b>6. Fire finally put out</b> 87 churches had burned down 13,000 houses had burned down

### Vocabulary

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
London	The capital city of England and the United Kingdom
member of parliament	Law maker
spread	The fire got larger and moved across London
destroyed	The fire damaged buildings so much that they were ruined
demolish	Deliberately pulling down a building (to stop the spread of fire)
mayor	A person given the job of being the head of a city

