History Knowledge Organiser – The Great Fire of London

How do we know about the past?



Objects made by people that are from a particular time in History.

artefacts



Pictures from the time were often painted or drawn by the people who were there.

pictures



Letters or diaries written at the time by eye-witnesses.

writing

All of these sources give us clues about events in the past and help us to know what happened.

Key Knowledge	
When was the Great Fire of London?	The Great Fire of London started on Sunday 2nd September 1666 and ended on Thursday 6th September 1666.
Where did the fire start?	The fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane.
Why did the fire spread so quickly?	In 1666, the buildings in London were very close together and many were made of wood and had straw roofs.
What happened after the fire?	After the fire, many buildings were rebuilt. King Charles ll ordered that buildings were built further apart and made of stone to make sure the fire could not happen again so easily.

Key People



Samuel Pepys



Sir Christopher Wren



King Charles II





Timeline of Events

Sunday 2nd September 1666
The fire starts at around 1 a.m.
Mid-morning: Samuel Pepys starts to write about the fire in his diary.

Monday 3rd September 1666
The fire gets very close to the Tower of London.

Tuesday 4th September 1666
St Paul's Cathedral is destroyed by the fire.

Wednesday 5th September 1666
The wind dies down and the fire spreads more slowly.

Thursday 6th September 1666
The fire is finally put out.
Thousands of people are left homeless.

Word bank

Thomas Farynor	baker	bakery	Pudding Lane
1666	September	fire	houses
narrow	smoke	Mayor	flames
escape	leather buckets	River Thames	water squirt
axe	London	Samuel Pepys	diary
St Paul's Cathedral	King Charles II	monument	rebuilt

Samuel Pepys



Samuel Pepys wrote a diary about the Great Fire of London. It tells us lots of information about the fire.

Historians used his diary, and other sources of information, to work out what happened during the Great Fire of London.

London Is Rebuilt

After the fire, London was in ruins, with around 65,000 people now homeless. A huge rebuilding project was started. To ensure the city couldn't be destroyed again, a new law was passed.

The new law stated that:

- the upper floors of buildings could no long overhang the lower levels;
- buildings had to be made of brick or stone;
- water had to be easily accessed from lots of areas in case there was another fire.



The architect, Sir Christopher Wren, designed much of the city, including the new St Paul's Cathedral.