

History Knowledge Organiser

Year 2

Autumn (ii)

What factors led up to The Great Fire of London?

Substantive Knowledge - We learned from the Great Fire of London that houses needed to be made from brick.

The Great Fire of London happened in 1666 C.E. during the Stuart Period.

The conditions of 1666 in London encouraged the spread of the fire.



London was dirty with rubbish in the streets.

Houses were made from wood and wattle and daub (twigs, hay, mud and manure) which is very flammable (sets fire easily).

The summer of 1666 was a hot and dry one making the wooden houses very flammable.

Houses were close together.

Street lights had open flames.

Stuart house structures meant the roofs were often close together

In the past, builders did not have the skills they do today so houses were often crooked and wider on the second and third storeys than the ground floor meaning the roofs were close together. This was not good because the fire spread quickly but good because many people escaped by jumping across the roofs.



The Evidence Sources Available To Us

We know about the Great Fire of London because of the diary written in code by Samuel Pepys, the Order and declaration from King Charles II and paintings. The fire started in Thomas Farrinor’s bakery in Pudding Lane. Thomas Farrinor blamed his maid for leaving the oven lit but we do not know if this is true.

In the first place the woful experience in this late heavy visitation hath sufficiently convinced all men of the pernicious consequences which have attended the building with Timber, and even with Stone it self, and the notable benefit of Brick, which in so many places hath refuted and even extinguished the Fire; And we do therefore hereby declare Our exprefs Wil and Pleasure, That no man whatsoever shall presume to erect any House or Building, great or small, but of Brick, or Stone, and if any man shall do the contrary, the next Magistrate shall forthwith cause it to be pulled down.

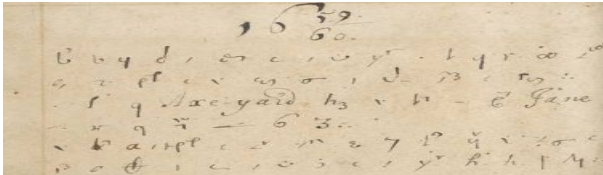
Whereas You have appointed Vincentian Master of Francis Audford to take an exact plan & survey of our City of London with the suburbs adjoining as the same was staid after the sad calamity of the late Fire is a particular Description of the ruins thereof You have thought fit to send the same to the Honble Council



Part of King Charles II’s declaration says that wood is not good for building but brick is. Streets should be made wider and houses should not be close to the river.

Order by the King to ‘take an exact plan and survey of our city of London……after the sad calamity of the late fire.’

A painting by Wenceslas Hollar in 1666 C.E.



Samuel Pepys kept a diary between 1660 and 1669 C.E. He wrote it in code which was not understood until 1819.

Significant People



There are no portraits of Thomas Farrinor or the maid because only rich people had paintings (portraits) made.

Samuel Pepys King Charles II The Duke of York

Portable Knowledge – What we need to remember

The Great Fire of London happened in 1666.
The Great Fire of London started in a bakery in Pudding Lane, London.
Stuart houses were highly flammable (the materials used caught fire easily). King Charles II declared this was a problem and new buildings should be made out of brick.

Core Vocabulary

- Factors – things that might affect or lead to something happening (the fire)
- Conditions – what it was like (to live in London)
- Structures – the building frame (of Stuart houses)
- Consequences – what happened (because of the fire)

The Chronology of The Great Fire of London

