

The Great Fire Of London

FIRES IN LONDON

The Great Fire of London happened in 1666. That year, the summer was dry. There wasn't much rain. This was bad news. It meant a fire could spread more easily.

Electricity had not been discovered. So, fire was important. Real flames were used in homes. Fire was used for heating, lighting and cooking.

Houses were built close together. They had wooden timber frames. If a fire started, it spread quickly.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. What word means 'not ordinary'?

Dangerous Unusual Often

2. Which of these is another word for started?

Began Early Used

3. What does the word 'flammable' mean?

4. What does the word 'extinguished' mean?

Fires happened often. It wasn't unusual. The Great Fire of London was different. It was far bigger. It was far more dangerous.

HOW DID IT START?

The fire started on Pudding Lane. It began in a bakery shop. The shop belonged to the king's baker. It started in the early morning when most people were asleep. It was dark outside.

The wind was strong. It carried the fire quickly down the lane. It spread rapidly. The fire soon reached the river Thames and London bridge.

Near the river, there were warehouses. The warehouses stored lots of things. Some warehouses stored oil. Oil is very flammable. That means it burns quickly. The oil made the fire a lot worse. London Bridge caught fire.

all resources ©2020 Literacy Shed
http://www.literacyshedplus.com

WHAT HAPPENED?

The fire burned for three days. It destroyed one third of London. 13,200 houses burned down. Important buildings burned down too, like St Paul's Cathedral. 70,000 people were made homeless. At least six people died. Probably many more.

HOW DID THEY PUT THE FIRE OUT?

In 1666, there were no fire engines. The fire brigade used buckets of water. They also used axes to chop wood. This didn't work very well.

They needed a different plan. The navy came to help. There were houses in the fire's way. The plan was to blow up these houses with gunpowder. This meant the fire had nothing in its way. It had nothing left to burn. This is how the fire put out. It was extinguished.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

I Why were people asleep at the start of the fire?

R How many people's houses burned down?

S Put these events in order

London Bridge starts burning

Fire spreads down Pudding Lane

The Navy come to help

The first starts in a bakery

The fire is put out

all resources ©2020 Literacy Shed

http://www.literacyshedplus.com