

READING

1 Look at the photos.

What do you know about London today?

How was it different in the 17th century?

Discuss your ideas with your partner.

2 Read the article and check your ideas from Exercise 1. Match the four photos A–D to paragraphs 1–4.

3 Choose the correct word to complete the sentences about the Great Fire of London.

1 London is *bigger* / *smaller* today than it was in the 17th century.

2 The fire started in a bread shop early on *Saturday morning* / *Sunday morning*.

3 A lot of people lived in houses made of *wood* / *stone*.

4 The houses burned *quickly* / *slowly*.

5 5th September was the *first* / *last* day of the fire.

6 The Tower of London is *more than* / *less than* 350 years old.

7 St Paul's Cathedral is a(n) *new* / *old* stone building.

The Great Fire

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1 Saturday 1st September 1666 was a normal day in London. The city was smaller than it is today, but the little shops were busy and there were lots of people in the streets.

2 Just after midnight that night, something happened in a bread shop in Pudding Lane to change everything. A small fire started in the building. Most people lived in small houses in those days. These houses were very close to each other. The floors at the bottom of the houses were made of stone, but the rest of the houses were made of wood. The fire moved first to the houses and shops on each side of the bread shop, jumping from roof to roof. The buildings started to burn, and the fire travelled quickly from house to house, from shop to shop and from street to street. The fire moved very fast through the buildings and burned for three days, from Sunday 2nd until Wednesday 5th September.

3 After the fire, the buildings made of wood were not there anymore, but many churches and the famous castle, the Tower of London, were still there because they were made of stone.

4 So the people of London decided to make new buildings of stone. You can still see many of those stone buildings from after the fire in London today. One of the most famous is a church. It's called St Paul's Cathedral.

