

London's burning! – The Great Fire of London

The old city of London was very different from today's city. It had narrow, crooked streets and most of the buildings were made of wood. It was a dirty and dangerous city, too. People threw all their rubbish into the streets, and there were rats everywhere. However, in 1665 everything changed.

A The assistant, however, fell asleep, and when he woke up at about two o'clock in the morning, the bakery was on fire. From the bakery, the fire spread to the next house and then the next. A strong wind was blowing from the river and it blew the fire from house to house. After a hot, dry summer the buildings caught fire very easily, and in the narrow streets the fire spread quickly.

B Today near London Bridge you can see the Monument to the Great Fire of London. It's thirty-three metres high, because it's thirty-three metres from the bakery in Pudding Lane where the fire started.

C In the evening of 2 September, 1666, Thomas Farynor, a baker, was in his bakery in Pudding Lane near London Bridge. He was making some bread. He put the loaves of bread into the oven and then he went to bed, while his assistant looked after them.

D The fire burned for four days and it destroyed most of the city. Amazingly, only six people died, but almost everyone lost their home. The people of London had to build a new city.

E Soon several streets were on fire. Some people tried to save their houses, but was no good. The fire was too strong, so they grabbed their children, money and clothes and they ran. The streets were full people, horses and carts, as everyone tried to escape from the fire.

F They decided to build a better, more modern city with wide, straight streets. It was cleaner and safer, too. The people didn't want another fire, so all the buildings were made of bricks or stone, not wood. Sir Christopher Wren built a new St Paul's Cathedral. Everyone agreed that it was more beautiful than the old cathedral.

Read the paragraphs and put them in the correct order.

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2nd

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