Knowledge Organiser

National Event Beyond Living Memory - The Great Fire of London

Autumn 2

Key Places and Vocabulary	
bakery	A place where bread or cakes are made and sold
London	The capital city of England and the United Kingdom
River Thames	Many people got a boat on the River Thames to escape the fire
diary	A personal record of life's events
eye-witness	A person who has seen something and can give a description of it
embers	Small pieces of glowing coal or wood in a dying fire
fire-hooks	Giant hooks used to pull down houses
fire-break	When buildings are destroyed to make a gap so the fire can't spread
flammable	When something burns easily
St Paul's Cathedral	A Christian building razed to the ground in the fire and rebuilt using designs by Sir Christopher Wren

Key Questions and Facts	
When and where did the fire start?	The fire of London started in a bakery in Pudding Lane on 2nd September 1666.
Why did the fire spread?	It hadn't rained for months so the city was very dry. In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood which burns easily. Houses were built too close together and there was no organised fire brigade.
How did they fight the fire?	They used leather buckets and squirts filled with water, axes, fire-hooks and gunpowder to make fire-breaks.
How did the fire stop?	The fire burned for 4 days. As the wind died down and changed direction the fire became under control and was finally put out.
How many people died?	6 people died as a result of the fire. Thomas Farriner's maid was the first person to die because she was too scared to jump from the burning building.
What happened after the fire?	13,200 houses were destroyed by the fire and 70,000 people were left homeless. Many left London to live elsewhere and some slept in tents.

Our Substantive Concepts

Legacy - Something that is passed on and helps us to remember something or someone from the past.

Society – A large group of people who cooperate in an organised way. Making decisions about how to do things and sharing what needs to be done.

Power – The ability to control others, events or resources.

Prior Knowledge

- Changes within living memory – **Toys**
- The lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements – **Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II**
- Significant Historical Event – **The Moon Landing**

Key People		
	Thomas Farriner	An ember from one of Thomas' bakery ovens ignited some nearby firewood. The fire quickly spread around the room and to nearby buildings.
	Samuel Pepys	One of they ways we know about the fire is because people wrote about it in their own personal diary.
	King Charles II	Charles II was the King of England in 1666. After the fire, he made a decree that houses must be built further apart and built from stone not timber.

Timeline				
Sunday 2nd September 1666 A fire starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. As news of the fire spreads, people run to escape its path.	**Monday 3rd September 1666** Fire-fighters try to tackle the fire but it spreads quickly. People carry their possessions to safety using a horse and cart or boats on the River Thames.	**Tuesday 4th September 1666** Houses are pulled down in an attempt to stop the fire spreading. St. Paul's Cathedral is destroyed.	**Wednesday 5th September 1666** The fire starts to burn more slowly as the wind dies down.	**Thursday 6th September 1666** The fire is finally under control and put out. People are left homeless.