

# Great Fires of the past - Year 2

**Prior learning:** In Year 1 you learned about famous women of the past; Florence Nightingale, Grace Darling and Helen Sharman. You learned about the history of North Shields and the Fish Quay.

In Year 2 you learned that London is the capital city of England, the place where that country's government is found. It was and still is, the most populated city in England (the most people live there).



## Key questions

What important events happened in my own life and British History?  
How has London changed over time? What was the Great Fire of London? What sources are useful for learning about the past? What lessons did people learn from this tragic event? What happened during the Great Fire of Newcastle & Gateshead? What might an eye witness to the fire say? How have the fire brigade changed since the Great Fire?

## Key Vocabulary to learn

**Century** - a time period of 100 years

**17th Century** - the years from 1600 to 1699 in the past

**19th Century** - the years from 1800 to 1899

**London** - The capital and largest city of the United Kingdom

**Old** - made or built a long time ago

**Modern** - from the present or recent times

**River Thames** - the longest river in England, flows through London to the North Sea

**River Tyne** - a river that flows between Newcastle and Gateshead

**Newcastle** - a city on the north of the river Tyne in the North East of England

**Gateshead** - a large town in the North East of England on the southern bank of the river Tyne.

**Source** - a place, person or thing that can tell us about the past

**Evidence** - facts or information that show if something is true

**Diary** - a book that someone writes in to record events and experiences

**Eyewitness** - a person who has seen something happen

**Architect** - a person who designs buildings

**Mayor** - a person who is in charge of a town or city

**Monument** - a statue, building, or other structure made to remember an important person or event



## Key dates - Great Fire of London

**Sunday 2nd September 1666** - The fire starts at 1a.m.

**Sunday 2nd September 1666** - Mid-morning, **Samuel Pepys** starts writing about the fire in his **diary**

**Tuesday 4th September 1666** - **St Paul's Cathedral** is destroyed by the fire.

**Wednesday 5th September 1666** - The wind dies down and the fire spreads more slowly.

**Thursday 6th September 1666** - The fire is finally put out. Thousands of people are left homeless.

## Key dates - Great Fire of Newcastle & Gateshead

**6th October 1854, Early morning** - A fire starts in a mill on the **Gateshead** side of the **Quayside**

**6th October 1854, Later that morning** - The fire spreads to **Mr Bertram's** warehouse, there is an explosion

**6th October 1854** - The fire spreads across the river to **Newcastle**.

**7th October 1854** - A day and a half later the fire is put out after buildings are pulled down.