

# How did the Great Fire of London start?

**LONDON  
MUSEUM**



Summer 1666 had been very hot and dry. On 2 September 1666, this set the perfect conditions for the Great Fire of London.

These cards tell the story of how the Great Fire of London started in September 1666. Read each card carefully, and put them in the right **chronological** order.

**2 September 1666, 1 am**

A fire broke out in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. It may have been caused by a spark from an oven.

**4 September 1666, 11 pm**

The wind changed direction and the fire started to die down.

**2 September 1666, 11 am – 12 noon**

The fire was spreading quickly, so the Lord Mayor tried to stop it by pulling down houses. But the flames moved too fast!

**5 September 1666**

Most of the fires were put out. A few new ones broke out but were extinguished quickly.

**2 September 1666, 3 am**

The Lord Mayor came to look at the fire. He didn't think it looked too bad and went back to bed!

**6 September 1666, 5 am**

The final fire broke out in Bishopsgate. It was soon put out and the Great Fire of London was over.

**3 September 1666, morning**

Charles II and the Duke of York stepped in to put out the fires. They set up 8 firefighting bases called fire posts.

**4 September 1666, 6 am**

The fire spread to Cheapside, a main street in the City of London.

**4 September 1666, afternoon**

The fire reached its peak, stretching from Temple to the Tower of London. Firefighters started using gunpowder to clear houses more quickly!

**Chronological** order is the order that things happened, from first to last.