GREAT FIRE OF LONDON
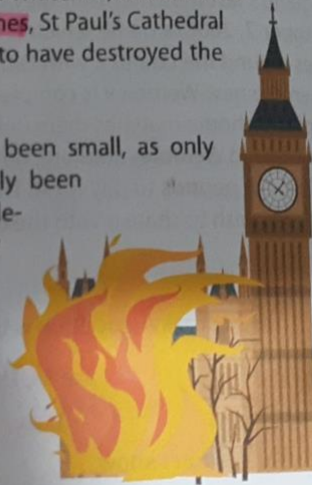
The Great Fire of London was a major conflagration that swept through the central parts of the English city of London, from Sunday, 2 September to Wednesday, 5 September 1666.

The fire gutted the medieval City of London inside the old Roman city wall. It threatened, but did not reach, the aristocratic district of Westminster, Charles II's Palace of Whitehall, and most of the suburban slums. It consumed 13,200 houses, 87 parish churches, St Paul's Cathedral and most of the buildings of the City authorities. It is estimated to have destroyed the homes of 70,000 of the City's 80,000 inhabitants.

The death toll is unknown but traditionally thought to have been small, as only six verified deaths were recorded. This reasoning has recently been challenged on the grounds that the deaths of poor and middle-class people were not recorded, while the heat of the fire may have cremated many victims leaving no recognisable remains. A melted piece of pottery on display at the Museum of London found by archaeologists in Pudding Lane, where the fire started, shows that the temperature reached 1700 °C.

The Great Fire started at the bakery of Thomas Farriner (or Farynor) on Pudding Lane, shortly after midnight on Sunday, 2 September, and spread rapidly west across the City of London.

The use of the major **firefighting** technique of the time, the creation of firebreaks by means of demolition, was critically delayed owing to the **indecisiveness** of the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Thomas Bloodworth. By the time large-scale **demolitions** were ordered on Sunday night, the wind had already fanned the **bakery** fire into a firestorm which defeated such measures.

The fire pushed north on Monday into the heart of the City. Order in the streets broke down as rumours arose of suspicious **foreigners** setting fires. The fears of the homeless **focused** on the French and Dutch, England's enemies in the ongoing Second Anglo-Dutch War; these substantial immigrant groups became victims of **lynchings** and street violence. On Tuesday, the fire spread over most of the City, destroying St Paul's Cathedral and leaping the River Fleet to threaten Charles II's court at Whitehall, while coordinated firefighting efforts were simultaneously **mobilising.** The battle to quench the fire is considered to have been won by two factors: the strong east winds died down, and the Tower of London garrison used **gunpowder** to create effective **firebreaks** to halt further spread **eastward.**

The social and economic problems created by the disaster were overwhelming. Evacuation from London and resettlement elsewhere were **strongly** encouraged by Charles II, who feared a London **rebellion** amongst the **dispossessed** refugees. Despite numerous radical proposals, London was reconstructed on essentially the same street plan used before the fire.

1. Many suburban slums were burnt down

   a. True.
   b. False. the fire gutted the medieval city or london inside
   c. We don't know. the old roman city wall

2. How many inhabitants had their homes destroyed?

   a. 13,200.
   b. 70,000. to have destroyed the homes of 70,000
   c. 80,000. or the city's 80,000 Inhabitants.

3. There were many deaths recorded.

   a. True.
   b. False. the death toll is unknown but traditionally thought to have
   c. We don't know. been small!

4. The Lord Mayor of London decided to demolish the burnt buildings to control the fire.

   a. True. to the lord mayor or london 'sir tomas blod-oith
   b. False.
   c. We don't know.

5. The city was rebuilt following a new street design.

   a. True.
   b. False. London was reconstructed on essentially the same.
   c. We don't know. Plan-sed before the fire

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Do you
SPEAK
English?

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Great Fire of London

Swept: barrida

gutted: destripada

threatened: amenazada

Churches: iglesias

buildings: edificios

recognisable: reconocible

pudding: puding

rapidly: rápidamente

Firefighting: lucha contra incendios

baker: panadera

foreigners: Extranjeras

focused: Enfocada

lynchings: linchamientos

gunpowder: polvora

Firebreaks: corta fuegos

mobilising: movilizando