



Great Fire of London Walk

Time	Map	
START	0	<p>Inside St Mary at Hill Church</p> <p>At church, set the scene, London just recovering from the plague, very hot weather, fear about the French and the Dutch, people from France and Holland, enemies who England was at war with. London was nervous and tense and hot! Estimated that 500,000 people lived in London just before the Great Fire, it was one of the largest cities in the world.</p>
2 mins	1	<p>Pudding Lane (from church, front entrance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - distance of the fire start point from Monument is 202ft, the height of the Monument, built to remember the fire - bit about how the fire started - ask what they know about how the fire started? - Show the exact location of the start of the fire, recently discovered from old documents, Pudding Lane was diverted slightly when the Monument was built. See PICTURE 0. <p>Thomas Farriner closed his Pudding Lane bakery on the evening of Saturday, September 1 1666. He put out the fire in his bread oven, as he did every night, and went up to bed.</p> <p>However he hadn't put it out properly, and a fire started at 1am on Sunday morning 2 September, possibly caused by a spark from the oven falling onto a pile of fuel nearby. It quickly spread to the whole house - the Great Fire of London had started.</p>
3 mins	2	<p>St Georges Lane (stop Botolph Lane)</p> <p>So now the fire is taking hold, with surrounding houses in flames.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PICTURE-1 - overhanging houses, imagine by looking at today's alleyways - why the fire spread - Buildings were made of timber – covered in a substance called pitch, which burns very easily. Most houses had tiled rooves, but some were roofed with thatch (like straw) which burns very easily. The houses were tightly packed together. Fires often started in the crowded wood-built city with its open fireplaces, candles, ovens, and stores of things that burned easily, especially in the river bank warehouses
6 mins	3	<p>Cross East Cheap to Philpott Lane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - find the mice/cheese - rumoured to be London's smallest sculpture (opposite Pret, roof of ground floor) - why they're there - they commemorate a worker who died during the construction of the Monument. Two mice ate his lunch but he blamed a fellow worker by mistake and fell to his death in the ensuing fight.





8 mins	4	<p>EastCheap, past Mincing Lane, to Mark Lane(stop in Mark Lane)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- all the city for the distance you travelled on the boat was destroyed- What would you do if a fire broke out? Call the fire brigade? Police?- There was no police or fire brigade to call then, but groups of people who lived in the same area, known as the Trained Bands, were available for emergencies. Watching for fire was one of the jobs of the Watchmen or "bellmen" who patrolled the streets at night. Plans were in place for dealing with fires, and they usually worked. People would be told of a dangerous house fire by muffled ringing on the church bells, and would get together as fast as possible to fight the fire. <p>- PICTURE 2 - How they fought the fire</p> <p>They fought the fires by pulling buildings down to form fire breaks which the fire could not cross, and with water. The tower of every parish church had to hold equipment for firefighting: long ladders, leather buckets, squirters, axes, and "firehooks" for pulling down buildings. Sometimes taller buildings were blown up with gunpowder (what fireworks are filled with).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- So imagine yourselves, you're asleep in bed, you are woken up by the church bells, you get up as fast as possible, rush to the church, get your buckets and hooks, rush to fight the fire- The problem was, that the fire was so intense that people gave up fighting it, and concentrated on saving their possessions and themselves. <p>- PICTURES 3, 4, 5"</p>
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13mins	5	<p>Into Hart Street, to St Olaves church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- inside - Pepys monuments - Samuel and Elizabeth Pepys are buried in a vault beneath the nave- Elizabeth Pepys, leaning out from her monument and directing her gaze across the church to where Samuel sat in the gallery opposite- outside, round the back to the churchyard- graveyard - ground is raised up, stacked with bodies, look out for bones- In Seething Lane, a gateway with skulls (inscription: Christus Vivere Mors mihi lucrum - Christ lives, death is my reward) as reminder of death survives from that time. <p>Pepys could see the gate from his house across the road and could walk out of the Navy Office and through it into the churchyard, where an external staircase (blocked door in the church visible from the churchyard) led him straight into the private Navy Office pew in the gallery</p>
20mins	6	<p>Seething Lane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Samuel Pepys moved into this parish when he got an important job with the Navy Board and got a house next to his office. It was here that Pepys wrote his diary, which described the huge events of the time, including the plague and the Great Fire.- plaque - site of naval office- The Mayor of London didn't know what to do about the fire, so Pepys went to see King Charles 2nd and recommended that firebreaks, large gaps which the fire couldn't jump across, be created by pulling houses down. Pepys also employed workers from the dockyard to pull down empty houses surrounding the Navy Office and his own home to save them from the fire.- Pepys statue, and lots of floor tiles representing scenes from the Fire- Buried his wine and cheese here - "And in the evening Sir W. Pen and I did dig a hole, and put our wine in it; and I my Parmazan cheese, as well as some other things" Tue 4th Sept - but he dug it up again on 14th Sept.- All Hallows by the Tower (see map) - Peypys watched the fire watched the fire from the church tower





23mins	7	<p>Cross Great Tower St, to St Dunstans Hill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- walk through the churchyard, church destroyed in the Great Fire (and again in WW2) <p>Animal observations in Pepys diary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- pigeons - "And among other things, the poor pigeons didn't want to leave their houses, but hovered about the windows and balconys till they burned their wings, and fell down." entry Sun 2nd Sept- cat found in the chimney - ". I also did see a poor cat taken out of a hole in the chimney, with, the hair all burned off the body, and yet alive" entry Wed 5th Sept
25mins	8	<p>Idol Lane Back to St Margaret's Hill – to St Mary at Hill church through back entrance (stop in churchyard)</p> <p>the battle to stop the fire was won for two reasons: the strong east winds died down, and the Tower of London soldiers used gunpowder to blow up more houses to create gaps or firebreaks to stop the spread of the fire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Londoners then tried to find someone to blame - blamed the French and Dutch, rioted, persecuting any French or Dutch that they found- Robert Hubert, a French man, said he started the fire. He was believed, even though he was on a ship at sea when the fire started, and arrested and executed.- But eventually it was accepted that the fire was an accident, <p>Christopher Wren planned a complete redesign of London, but because of many different people owning small plots of land this was not possible so they rebuilt on the same street plan, which is what we've walked around today.</p> <p>Thanks for listening, and please ask me any questions.</p>
END		





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		1666 Sunday 2nd Sept - fire starts at 1am - rapidly spreads - by the afternoon people give up fighting it and try and save their possessions Monday 3rd Sept - Fire reaches the Thames, nearly spreads over London Bridge, moves rapidly North, Tower of London garrison demolish houses to stop the spread east Tuesday 4th Sept - Biggest day of destruction, St Pauls destroyed Wednesday 5th Sept - Wind drops, firebreaks start to take effect, isolated fires are gradually put out



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