

A watercolor illustration of a fire. The background is filled with warm, vibrant colors like orange, yellow, and red, with dark, irregular shapes representing falling debris or ash. In the bottom left corner, a grey mouse with large, white eyes and a pink nose looks towards the viewer. A small black fly is flying near the mouse. The overall style is artistic and expressive.

Why is the Great Fire of London significant?

We are going to find out what impact the Great Fire of London had, and why it was an important event in our history.



Hi, I'm Vlad the flea.

I'm going to tell you
about something that
happened over 350
years ago.



In 1666, London was almost destroyed by a huge fire.

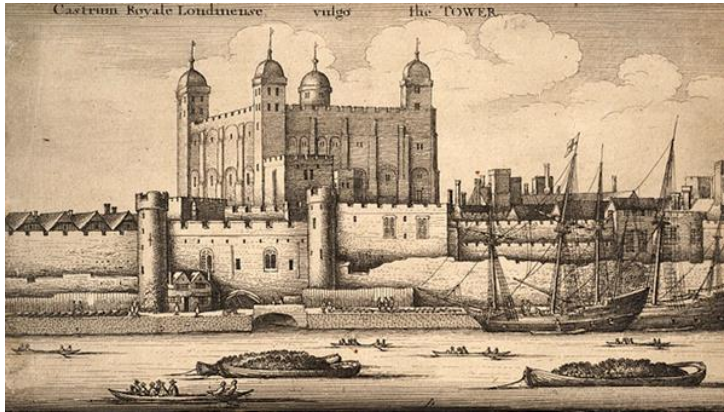
This has become known as the Great Fire of London.

This is a map of Britain showing where London is.



Where do you live on the map?

In the west of London was the Parliament and the court of King Charles II. It was where important decisions and new laws were made.



In the east was the Tower of London (where a huge store of gunpowder was kept), The Royal Mint (where the money was made) and a large port for ships from around the world.

500,000 people lived and worked in the capital of England. It was essential that the fire was stopped before London was obliterated.

Before the fire London looked very different



For an animation by Pudding Lane Productions of London in 1666 [click here](#)

Let's look at parts of London and how they have changed.



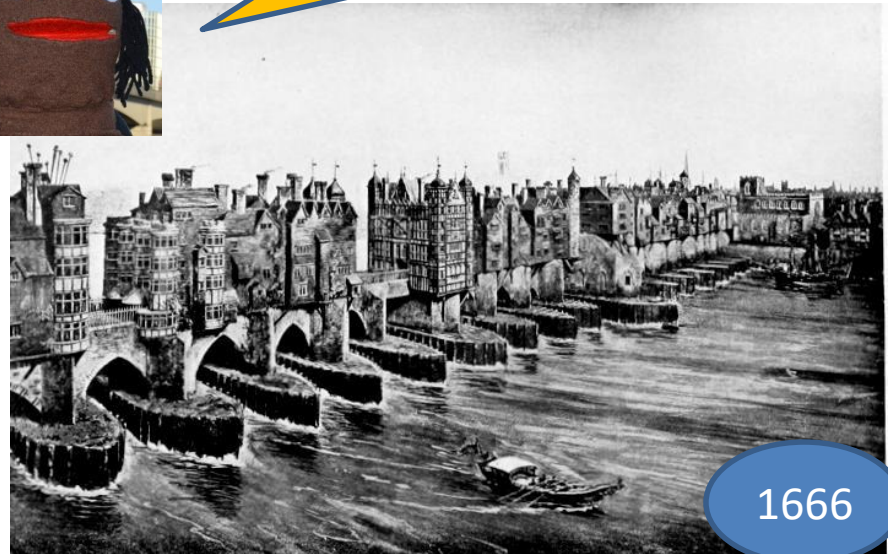


The Monument

The fire started close to London Bridge. You can see the golden top of the Monument marking the spot.



In 1666 London Bridge had houses on it.



1666



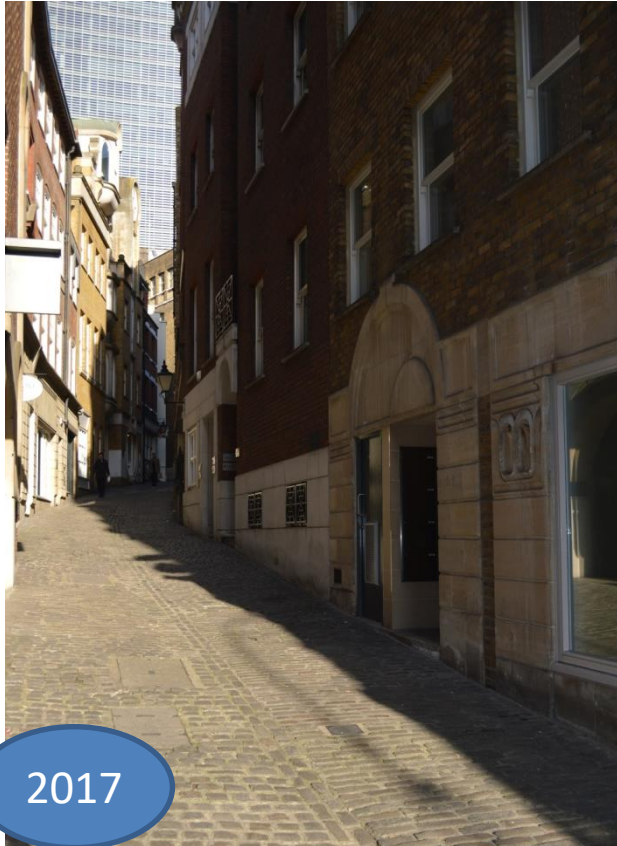
It all began in a bakery in Pudding Lane. Now there are only offices in the modern street.



2017



1666



The streets were narrow and cobbled with small stones. Some roads still have cobbles.



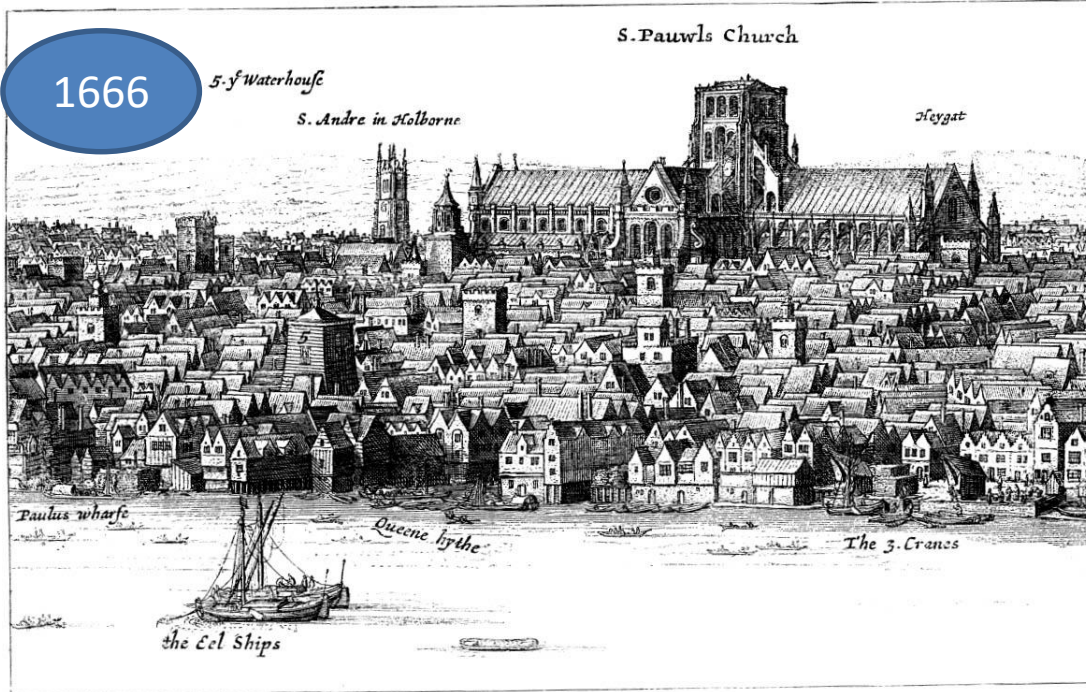
What is different about the streets in these pictures?



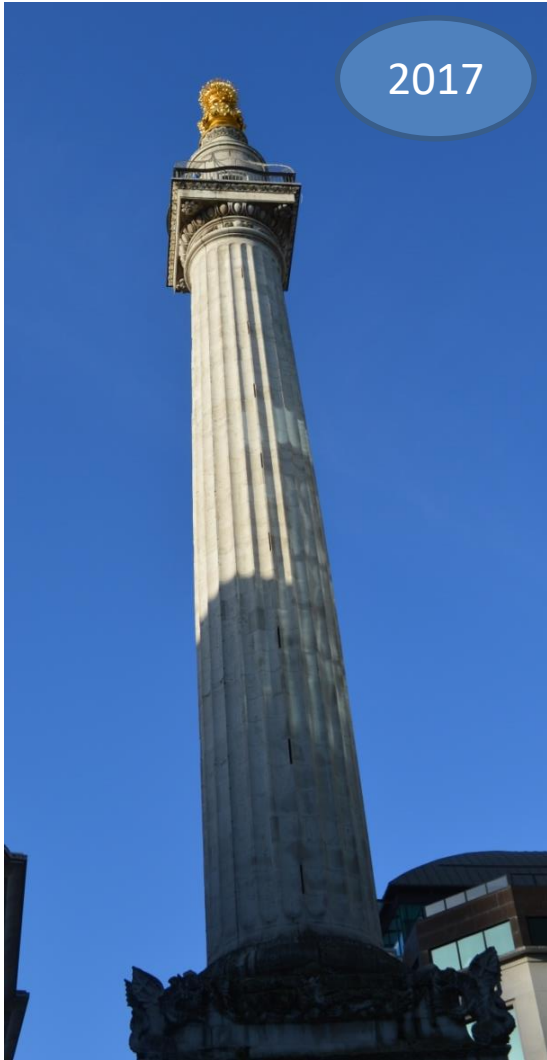
Some people living in London wrote about what happened. Samuel Pepys lived in Seething Lane and he recorded his feelings during the fire.



St Paul's Cathedral

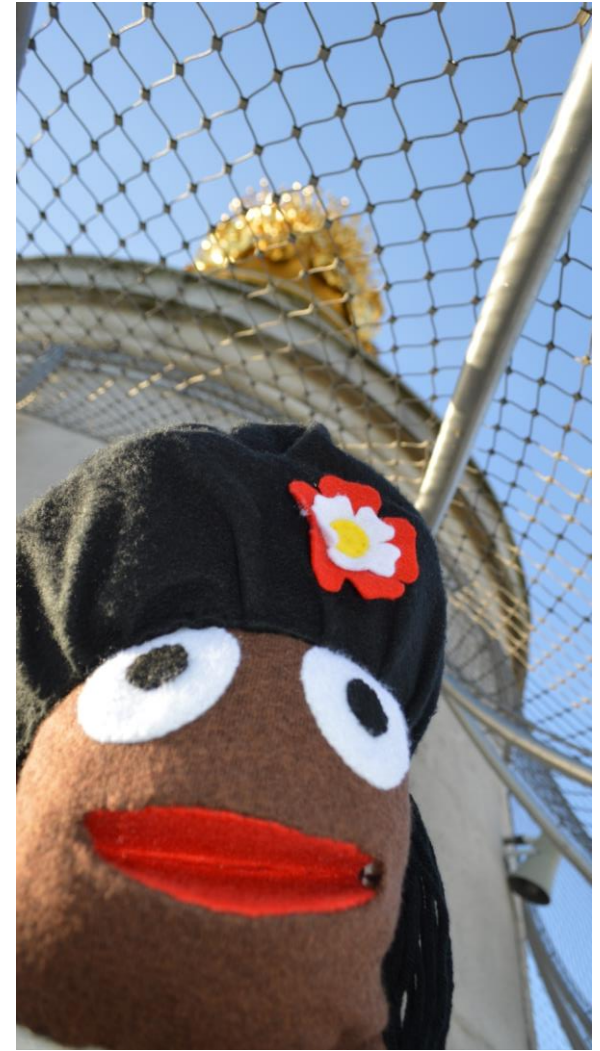


In 1666 the cathedral was the tallest building in London. It was completely ruined in the fire. Sir Christopher Wren designed the new cathedral, but it took 55 years to build it.

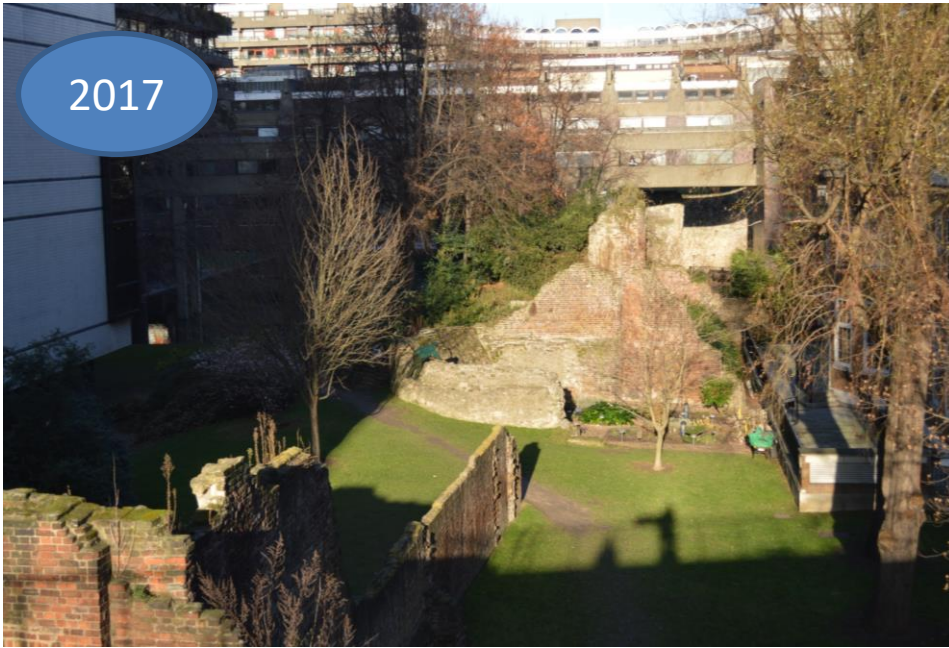


Four years after the fire, construction was started on this memorial.

The Monument was finished and opened by 1677.

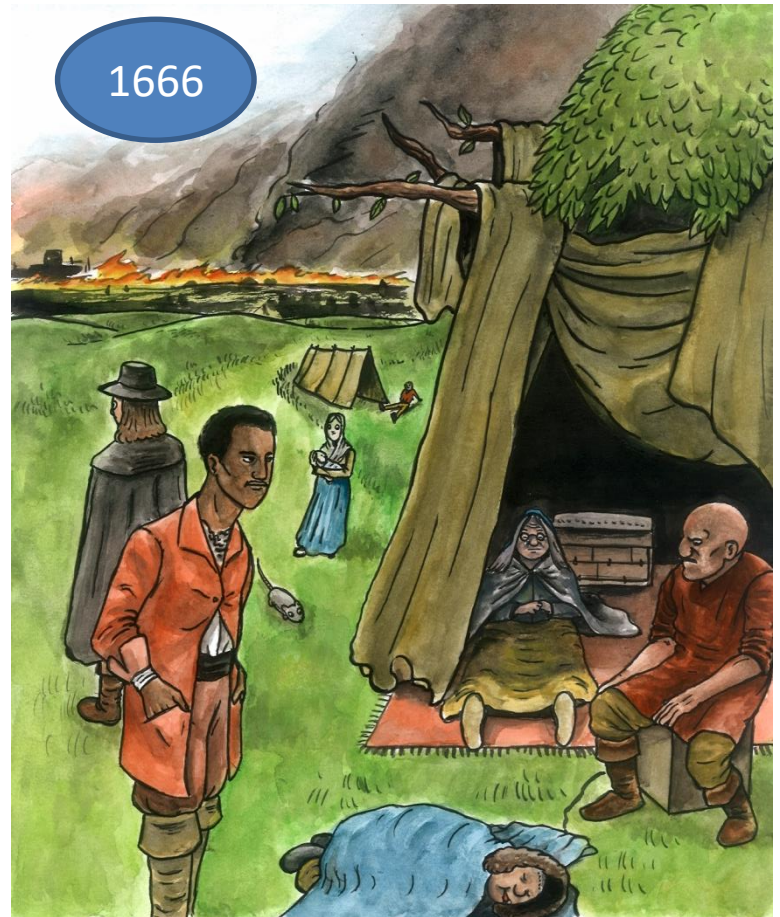


2017



Londoners escaped the fire and went to the fields around London city wall.

1666



10,000 people had no home after the fire. Many had to live in tents for years whilst their houses were rebuilt. Now the fields have buildings on them as London has got bigger.

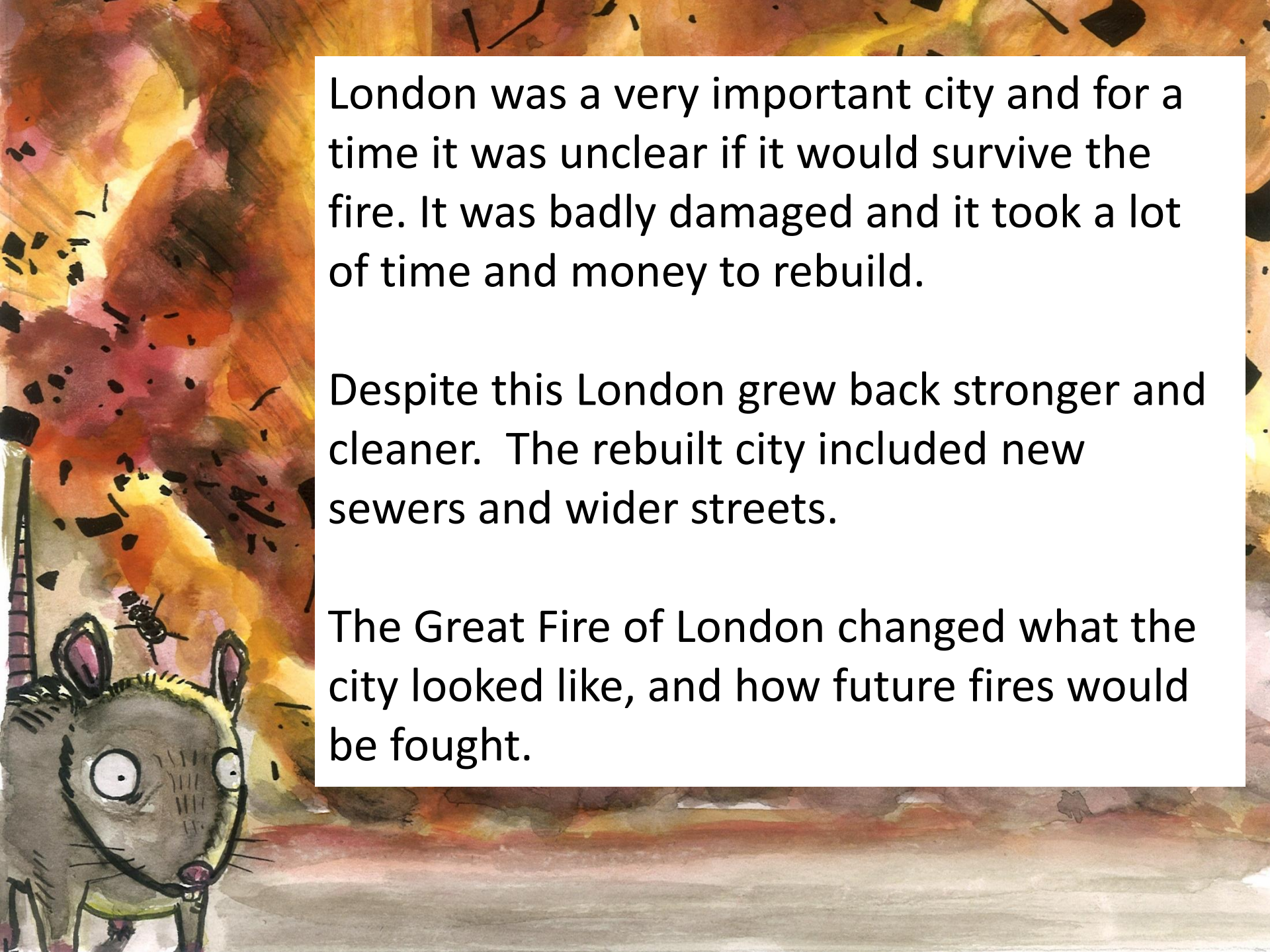
By the time the fire was brought under control it had burned 13,200 houses and 87 churches. Homes, shops and businesses were gone. The area in white on the map below shows the area that was destroyed.

1666



Wenceslaus Hollar's map
The National Archives

London had changed forever, and it took a long time to rebuild. By the end of 1667 they had only built 150 new houses.

A watercolor illustration depicting a scene of destruction. The background is dominated by vibrant, fiery colors of orange, yellow, and red, with dark, jagged shapes representing falling debris or smoke. In the lower-left foreground, a small, grey mouse with large, wide eyes and a pink nose looks up towards the viewer. A small black fly is perched on the mouse's head. The overall style is expressive and artistic, with visible brushstrokes and a textured appearance.

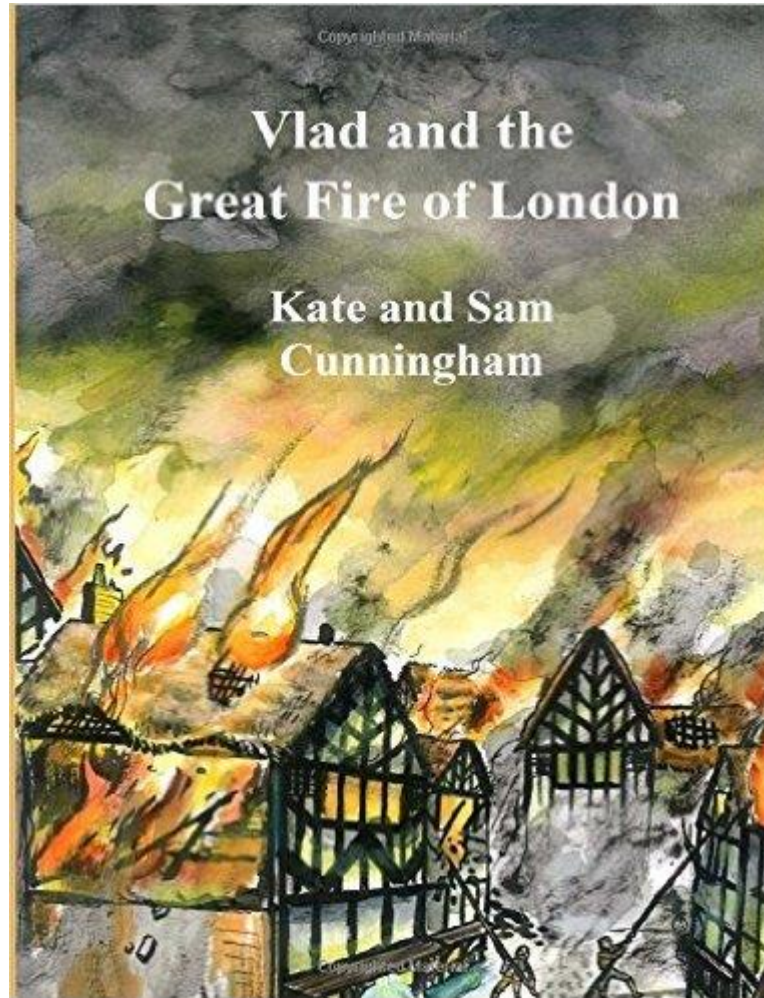
London was a very important city and for a time it was unclear if it would survive the fire. It was badly damaged and it took a lot of time and money to rebuild.

Despite this London grew back stronger and cleaner. The rebuilt city included new sewers and wider streets.

The Great Fire of London changed what the city looked like, and how future fires would be fought.



This is my story about the Great Fire of London which you can buy from Amazon



www.readingriddle.co.uk

For more information about the book and storytelling sessions.