

The Great Fire of London

Read the following text where a number of words are missing. Write ONE word in each gap. The word should make sense in the context and fit in grammatically. Remember to check your spelling.

On Sunday morning, 2 September, 1666, the destruction of medieval London began.

Within five days the city which Shakespeare had known was almost completely

_____ by fire.
1

The fire started in the house and shop of Thomas Farynor, a baker in Pudding Lane. Farynor had forgotten to put out the fire in his oven on the previous night and some embers set light to the nearby stacked firewood. By one o'clock in the morning, three hours after Farynor had _____ to bed, the house and shop were well alight. Farynor's assistant woke and, finding the house full of smoke, roused the household. Farynor, his wife and daughter _____ being caught in the flames by climbing through an upstairs window and along the rooftops. The maid was too frightened to climb along the roof and stayed in the house—becoming the first _____ of the fire.
2
3
4

Sparks from the burning house fell on hay and straw of the Star Inn and in the strong winds _____ blew that morning, the sparks spread rapidly, _____ fire to roofs and houses as they fell.
5
6

The fires burned all that day and on through the next. The stones of St Paul's cathedral _____ reported to be exploding with the heat, and molten lead from the roof ran down the streets in a stream. The strong easterly winds _____ the flames to advance.
7
8

There was little that could be _____⁹ to stop the fire from spreading. Various laws had been enacted, obliging the parishes to provide buckets, ladders, squirts and fire hooks, but much of the equipment was in a rotten _____¹⁰ through years of neglect, and water supplies away from the banks of the river were scarce.



By now, with few other alternatives, thoughts turned to demolishing houses to create fire breaks. In desperation, gunpowder was used to _____¹¹ up houses—and often with excessive success! For three more days the fire raged through the City—before finally burning out near Holborn Bridge.

As relief began to set in after the previous days' panic, the dying fire flared up again. More buildings were _____¹² down on the orders of the King and the fire was finally brought under _____¹³. But by the end of the fire some four fifths of the City had been destroyed, approximately 13,200 houses, 87 churches and 50 Livery Halls over an _____¹⁴ of 436 acres. What is amazing is that the fire is said to have _____¹⁵ very few lives—only six people are definitely known to have been killed—but it may actually have saved many more people. The rats that had helped to transmit the bubonic plague (*Black Death*) the previous year mostly perished in the fire. The number of plague victims _____¹⁶ rapidly after the fire.