

London's Burning

- (1) In 1666, more than half a million people lived among the clogged and polluted streets of London, a makeshift city that had evolved outwards into sprawling slums.
- (2) Most of the buildings and homes were made of wood, and many had straw roofs.
- (3) When a fire broke out on September 2, those materials made perfect fuel for one of the most devastating conflagrations the world has known.
- (4) The fire started in a bakery on Pudding Lane.
- (5) The baker forgot to put out the fire in his oven before going to bed.
- (6) Sparks from the oven ignited a blaze, and a strong wind fanned the bakery fire into a raging firestorm that tore through other buildings in the immediate vicinity.
- (7) The fire burned for three days and razed much of the city, reducing thousands of homes to acrid embers.
- (8) Many churches and businesses were destroyed too.
- (9) Surprisingly, fewer than 20 people died, although it is thought that the heat of the fire may have completely cremated many people, leaving no recognizable remains.

語注

- (1) clog 詰まらせる、ふさぐ makeshift その場しのぎの、間に合わせの sprawl 不規則 [無秩序]に広がる
- (3) devastate 荒廃させる、破壊する conflagration 大火
- (6) spark 火花、火の粉 ignite 火をつける、燃やす firestorm 火事嵐 vicinity 近所、付近
- (7) raze 徹底的に破壊する reduce A to B AをBの状態にする acrid つんとくる、刺すような ember 燃えさし
- (9) cremate 火葬にする remains 遺骸