

# Firefighters

## Then and Now



Today, we are lucky to have a fire service as part of our emergency services.

If there is a fire, we can call 999 and the fire service will come to put it out. Sometimes, they help rescue animals or people stuck in cars.



A long time ago, there were no firefighters.

# The Great Fire of London

A long time ago there was a fire in London. It started in a baker's shop on Pudding Lane.

All of the houses and shops were made from wood and they were built very close together. This meant that the fire spread quickly.



# The Great Fire of London

There was no fire service so lots of people tried to put the fire out.

They only had leather buckets, which they filled with water, axes, fire hooks and squirters.

Leather buckets had to be passed from person to person in a long chain to get the water from the river to the burning buildings.





leather bucket



axe



fire hooks



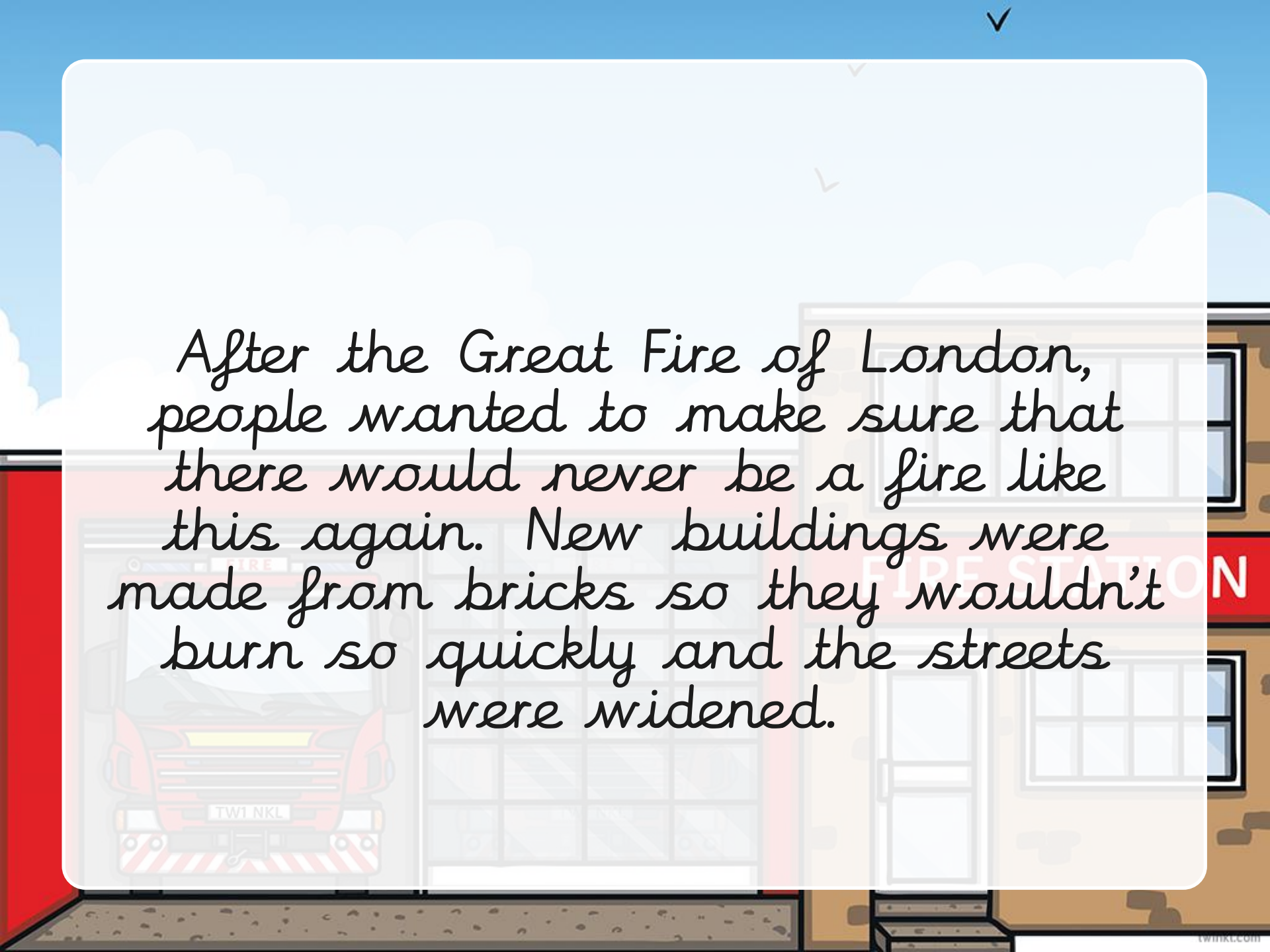
squirters

# The Great Fire of London

Gunpowder was sometimes used to create a 'fire break', where houses were blown up to try to stop the fire spreading.

The fire burnt for days. When the fire went out, many houses and shops in London were destroyed.



The background is a colorful illustration of a fire station. On the left, a red fire truck is parked, with the license plate 'TW1 NKL' visible. The station building is tan with a red sign that says 'FIRE STATION'. There are windows and a door visible. The sky is blue with white clouds and a few birds. The text is written in a black, cursive font on a white, rounded rectangular background.

After the Great Fire of London, people wanted to make sure that there would never be a fire like this again. New buildings were made from bricks so they wouldn't burn so quickly and the streets were widened.

# Female Firefighters

Women were not allowed to join the fire service. This soon changed after a long war. Women were allowed to join the fire service but could only be fire watchers who looked out for any fires, drivers and answer calls.

Women were finally allowed to join the fire service around 40 years ago. The first woman to join the fire service was called Josephine Reynolds.



# Firefighters Today

Today, firefighting is very different to when it started.

## Uniform

Today's uniform is a golden colour. It is made from a special, protective material. This means that firefighters are protected against fire and any spillages.

Firefighters wear helmets which have a built-in torch.

Radios are worn so firefighters can speak to each other.



# Firefighters Today

## Vehicles

The fire service uses large fire engines.



# Firefighters Today

## Technology

Firefighters wear a tracking device, which tells a computer and tells other firefighters exactly where they are.

Firefighters carry a special camera. This shows a firefighter how warm things are. It is very useful when there is so much smoke or darkness that firefighters can't see clearly.



