

Fire Fighting Volunteers

The number of firefighters in the US today is over a million. They have received firefighting training. However, there weren't any trained firefighters in the 1600s. Everyone had a role in putting out fires. Cities and towns lacked indoor plumbing, running water, and fire hydrants, necessitating the use of buckets to transport water from ponds, rivers, or wells to the fire. All the people rushed to help when a fire started. A bucket brigade was established by them. Men arranged themselves in a single line leading to the water source, passing buckets of water to douse the flames. Another line of women and kids sent back empty buckets to be filled. Many homes were destroyed before they could be rescued, since this process requires a very long time to extinguish a fire. Benjamin Franklin then had the concept for a fire service in 1736. He persuaded other Philadelphians to start the Union Fire Company. They were recognized as the first volunteer firefighters. Three out of four firefighters in America today work as volunteers. During their respective eras, Paul Revere, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington all served as volunteer firefighters.

Answer the following questions.

Q1. What did cities and towns lack in the 1600s?

A: _____

Q2. How did people put out fire in the 1600s?

A: _____

Q3. Why were homes destroyed and people lost their lives?

A: _____

Q4. Who gave the concept of fire service and when?

A: _____

Q5. Name 3 firefighting volunteers from the passage.

A: _____