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Great Fire of New York 1776

In 1776, the Revolutionary War was in full swing. George Washington was determined to prevent the British army from using the city of New York as a base for military operations. It is not known if Washington ordered his soldiers to set the city on fire, but rebel Americans started blazes, destroying buildings that the Redcoats could have used. The British soldiers beat and killed suspected arsonists (fire starters), while servants and people fled from the burning buildings. So many buildings were destroyed



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