

Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night



About this topic – *The aim of this session is for the children and older people to learn together about Guy Fawkes and the origins of Bonfire Night and to talk about the traditions and celebrations associated with this time of year.*

Resources for this topic

- Suggested session plan
- Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night Information Sheet
- Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night Quiz and answers
- Bonfire Night Words and Pictures
- Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night Word Search and answers

With thanks to www.entertainmenteffects.co.uk for image above

We are happy for you to use the material in this Toolkit exactly as it is or to modify it as required for your purposes. We do however ask that you always acknowledge its source as follows:

“Learning and Sharing Together” Resources (2020)

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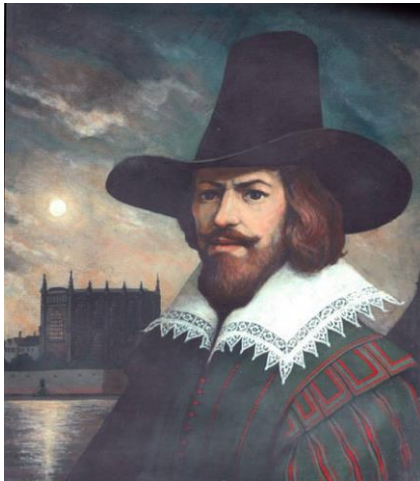
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Suggested session plan (one and a half hours approx.)

Whilst the plan below has been developed for face to face meetings, all the activities can be used in Virtual meetings too, using the shared screen facility on Zoom for example, and break out rooms for some activities.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Working in small groups the children and older people should take turns to read aloud **Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night Information Sheet**. Encourage them to discuss what they have read as there will be a quiz later
3. Give out **Bonfire Night Words and Pictures** to groups as they finish 2) and ask the children and older people to share their experiences and memories of Bonfire Night celebrations
4. When all the groups have finished 2) collect in **Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night Information Sheet** and hand out **Quiz**
5. As groups finish the quiz, they should continue with their **Bonfire Night Words and Pictures** discussion
6. Go through the **Quiz Answers** when all groups have finished **Quiz**
7. **Refreshments** – During refreshments have a whole group discussion about the **Bonfire Night Words and Pictures** – what are the differences and the similarities between the children's and older people's memories and experiences of Bonfire Night
8. Hand out the **Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night Word Search** if there is time.
9. Thankyous and goodbyes - Before the children and older people leave you may wish to say something about the topic or activity you have planned for the next session. This gives everyone the opportunity to be more prepared and, if appropriate, to bring photographs or other memorabilia

Guy Fawkes and the origins of Bonfire Night

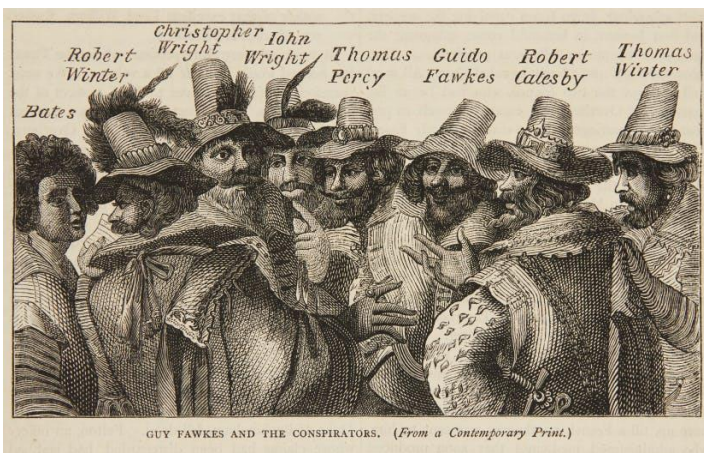


Over four hundred years ago, in 1605, a man called Guy Fawkes and a group of plotters attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London with barrels of gunpowder placed in the basement. They wanted to kill King James I and the King's leaders.

When the previous monarch, Queen Elizabeth I, took the throne of England she had made some laws against the Roman Catholics.

Guy Fawkes was one of a small group of Catholics who felt that the government was treating Roman Catholics unfairly. When James I came to the throne they hoped that he would change the laws, but he didn't. At that time Catholics had to practise their religion in secret. There were even fines for people who didn't attend the Protestant Church on Sunday or on holy days. James I passed more laws against the Catholics when he became King.

A group of 13 men led by Robert Catesby, plotted to kill King James and blow up



the Houses of Parliament where the laws that governed England were made. The plot was simple - the next time Parliament was opened by King James I, they would blow up everyone there with gunpowder. The men bought a house next door to the Parliament building. The house had a cellar which went under the Parliament building. They planned

to put gunpowder under the house and blow up Parliament and the King.

But as the conspirators worked on the plot, it became clear that innocent people would be hurt or killed in the attack, including some people who even fought for more rights for Catholics. Some of the plotters started having second thoughts. It is believed that one of the group members even sent an anonymous letter warning his friend, Lord Monteagle, to stay away from Parliament on November 5th. The warning letter reached the King, and the King's forces made plans to stop the conspirators.

Guy Fawkes had been given the job to keep watch over 36 barrels of gunpowder and to light the fuse. However, on the morning of November 5th, soldiers discovered him hidden in the cellar and arrested him. The trail of gunpowder at his feet would never be lit. Guy Fawkes and several of his fellow plotters were subsequently put to death.

On the very night that the Gunpowder Plot was foiled, on 5th November 1605, bonfires were set alight to celebrate the safety of the King. The following year in 1606 the Thanksgiving Act was passed which made it compulsory to celebrate the failure of the Gunpowder Plot. The Act remained in force until 1859. The tradition of celebrating on November 5th with bonfires, the burning of a “Guy” and fireworks has continued to this day.

Searching the Palace of Westminster is another tradition that dates back to the Gunpowder Plot. Every year, the reigning monarch visits the Palace of Westminster for a ceremony known as the State Opening of Parliament. Prior to the Opening, and according to custom, the Yeomen of the Guard search the cellars of the Palace of Westminster. This tradition of searching the cellars of Parliament before the opening of each new Parliamentary session was introduced in 1678.

Remember, remember the fifth of November
Gunpowder, treason and plot.
I see no reason, why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.

Guy Fawkes, guy, t'was his intent
To blow up King and Parliament.
Three score barrels were laid below
To prove old England's overthrow.

By God's mercy he was catch'd
With a darkened lantern and burning match.
So, holler boys, holler boys, Let the bells ring.
Holler boys, holler boys, God save the King.

And what shall we do with him?
Burn him!

Some Bonfire Night Traditions

Firework Displays - In many town and cities, torch-lit processions are popular on Bonfire Night leading to the bonfire and firework displays.

Penny for the Guy - During the days leading up to Bonfire Night, many children used to make home-made guys which they would take out on the street and ask for "a penny for the Guy". They would use the money raised to buy fireworks.

Traditional Bonfire Night Food - As well as burning an effigy of Guy Fawkes, the bonfires were traditionally used to cook potatoes wrapped in foil and to heat up soup for the crowds that came to watch the fireworks. The traditional cake eaten on bonfire night is Parkin Cake, a sticky cake containing a mix of oatmeal, ginger, treacle and syrup. Other foods include sausages cooked over the flames and marshmallows toasted in the fire.

The World Famous Ottery St Mary Tar Barrel Rolling - Every year on November 5th in a tradition that dates back to the 17th Century, flaming Tar Barrels are carried through the streets of Ottery St Mary in Devon to the delight of thousands of residents and visitors. Starting with the junior barrels in late afternoon, the size of the adult barrels grow until the final huge one is carried just before Midnight.

The First Fireworks in England - Whilst we tend to associate fireworks particularly with Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot, the first recorded fireworks in England were at the wedding of King Henry VII in 1486. Fireworks gained popularity during the reign of Henry VIII and by Elizabethan times (1558-1603) there was a fireworks master. Queen Elizabeth I created this post so that someone would be in charge of organising firework displays for great occasions. James II even knighted his fireworks master after a particularly excellent show of fireworks at his coronation.

With thanks to Mandy Barrow for permission to include much of the information and images above from the Project Britain website

<http://www.projectbritain.com/guy/history.htm>

Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night Quiz (1 point for each correct answer)

1. In which year did the Gunpowder Plot take place?
2. What was the name of the leader of the Plot?
3. Which King was on the throne?
4. Why did the plotters want to kill the King and burn down Parliament?
5. How many barrels of gunpowder were in the cellar?
6. What tradition has carried on every year since 1678?
7. In which town are flaming tar barrels carried through the streets on November 5th?
8. What is the name of the sticky cake traditionally eaten on Bonfire Night?
9. When was the first recorded fireworks event in England?
10. Which monarch was particularly pleased with his firework master?

Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night Quiz Answers

1. In which year did the Gunpowder plot take place?

1605

2. What was the name of the leader of the Plot?

Robert Catesby

3. Which King was on the throne?

James 1

4. Why did the plotters want to kill the King and burn down Parliament?

Because of laws against the Catholics

5. How many barrels of gunpowder were in the cellar?

36

6. What tradition has carried on every year since 1678?

Searching the cellars of Parliament before the opening of the new session

7. In which town are flaming tar barrels carried through the streets on November 5th?

Ottery St Mary in Devon

8. What is the name of the sticky cake traditionally eaten on Bonfire Night?

Parkin

9. When was the first recorded fireworks event in England?

1486

10. Which monarch was particularly pleased with his firework master?

James II

Bonfire Night Words and Pictures

What do you think of when you think of Bonfire Night?

Think about how you celebrate (or have celebrated) Bonfire Night

What things do you associate with Bonfire Night celebrations?

Sparklers

Sausages

Soup

Bonfires

Toffee Apples



Catherine Wheels

Rockets

Bangers

Penny for the Guy

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Fireworks images above*

Bonfire Night Word Search

There are 15 words related to Bonfire Night in the grid below. They may be going forwards or backwards in a horizontal, vertical or diagonal direction.

Plot	Sparklers	Rockets	Bonfires	Fireworks
Sausages	Torches	Penny	Baked Potatoes	Display
Westminster	Parliament	Gunpowder	Barrels	Tradition

A D Z E D C B T Z Q B G T T O L P
L B O I R P A S N A H O Y L I V D
Z Q F J H W O R R I R D M Z G T W
R X B H N Y O R W C K X C Z U R E
M L M Q D C E V H G G K V A N Q S
S A G I K L I E C L X C R Z P E T
J N G E S K S V B M J C H C O E M
F K T Q I R L D J M T P I J W S I
I S M Y V O M J H A T A E Z D E N
R I I D N O I T I D A R T T E G S
E F Y S E R I F N O B L S G R A T
W G A M U O R K F P P I B C C S E
O Y L U B S R E L K R A P S B U R
R R P L S M I D X M D M P X N A G
K B S E O T A T O P D E K A B S Q
S T I V P Z R H D A X N D V W M X
Y Z D U Z A Y N N E P T A W T T Q

Bonfire Night Wordsearch Answers

A	D	Z	E	D	C	B	T	Z	Q	B	G	T	T	O	L	P
L	B	O	I	R	P	A	S	N	A	H	O	Y	L	I	V	D
Z	Q	F	J	H	W	O	R	R	I	R	D	M	Z	G	T	W
R	X	B	H	N	Y	O	R	W	C	K	X	C	Z	U	R	E
M	L	M	Q	D	C	E	V	H	G	G	K	V	A	N	Q	S
S	A	G	I	K	L	I	E	C	L	X	C	R	Z	P	E	T
J	N	G	E	S	K	S	V	B	M	J	C	H	C	O	E	M
F	K	T	Q	I	R	L	D	J	M	T	P	I	J	W	S	I
I	S	M	Y	V	O	M	J	H	A	T	A	E	Z	D	E	N
R	I	I	D	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	T	E	G	S
E	F	Y	S	E	R	I	F	N	O	B	L	S	G	R	A	T
W	G	A	M	U	O	R	K	F	P	P	I	B	C	C	S	E
O	Y	L	U	B	S	R	E	L	K	R	A	P	S	B	U	R
R	R	P	L	S	M	I	D	X	M	D	M	P	X	N	A	G
K	B	S	E	O	T	A	T	O	P	D	E	K	A	B	S	Q
S	T	I	V	P	Z	R	H	D	A	X	N	D	V	W	M	X
Y	Z	D	U	Z	A	Y	N	N	E	P	T	A	W	T	T	Q

Plot

Sausages

Westminster

Sparklers

Torches

Parliament

Rockets

Penny

Gunpowder

Bonfires

Baked Potatoes

Barrels

Fireworks

Display

Tradition