

Bonfire Night: History and Traditions

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of Bonfire Night and the traditions associated with Guy Fawkes Day in the UK.

Read the front of each flashcard and try to recall the answer before revealing the back. These cards explore the history of the Gunpowder Plot and why we celebrate on the 5th of November.

When is Bonfire Night celebrated in the UK?

It is celebrated annually on the 5th of November.

What was the name of the historical event that happened in 1605?

The Gunpowder Plot.

Who was the monarch during the time of the Gunpowder Plot?

King James I.

What were the plotters hoping to achieve by hiding barrels of gunpowder underneath Parliament?

They wanted to destroy the House of Lords and harm the King and members of Parliament.

Who was found guarding the gunpowder in the cellar beneath the House of Lords?

Guy Fawkes.

What is an 'effigy' often made of straw, which is sometimes burnt on top of a bonfire?

A 'Guy', representing Guy Fawkes.

Why do we set off fireworks on Bonfire Night?

To symbolise the explosives that were intended to be used in the plot.

What is the traditional rhyme that starts with 'Remember, remember the fifth of November'?

The Gunpowder Treason and Plot rhyme.

Explain why the year 1605 is considered a significant date in British history.

It marks the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot, which changed the political landscape and religious tensions of the time.

Compare and contrast: How do bonfire celebrations today differ from the way they were celebrated in the 17th century?

Modern celebrations are usually community-led firework displays with safety measures, whereas historical celebrations were more spontaneous and focused on political loyalty.