

Guy Fawkes Night: History and Fireworks

B1 | Adults / Teens | Reading + Vocabulary + Discussion | 50-60 minutes

BEFORE YOU READ

Talk with a partner. Do you know a public celebration connected with a historical event? What happens?

1. Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|---|
| 1. plot | _____ | A. a large outdoor fire |
| 2. Parliament | _____ | B. a secret plan to do something illegal or harmful |
| 3. commemorate | _____ | C. an impressive public event |
| 4. bonfire | _____ | D. the group of people who make laws in the UK |
| 5. effigy | _____ | E. a model of a person |
| 6. spectacle | _____ | F. remember an important person or event |

2. Read the article. The bold words are the vocabulary from Activity 1.

1. Guy Fawkes Night takes place in the United Kingdom on 5 November. It **commemorates** the failure of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605. A group of men planned to destroy the Houses of **Parliament** in London during an important meeting.
2. Guy Fawkes was found near barrels of gunpowder under the building. The **plot** failed, and the king survived. Soon afterwards, people began to light fires to celebrate the survival of the king. Over time, this became an annual event.
3. Today, many towns organise firework displays and light a **bonfire**. Some traditional events include an **effigy**, a model of Guy Fawkes, on the fire. Not every community follows this custom, and some people prefer family events without a bonfire.
4. For many visitors, the main attraction is the **spectacle** of fireworks in the dark sky. Safety is essential: public displays are planned carefully, and families are encouraged to watch from a safe distance. The night combines history, local tradition and entertainment.

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UNDERSTAND, DISCUSS AND WRITE

3. Comprehension. Answer in complete sentences. Use the article to help you.

1. What does Guy Fawkes Night commemorate?

2. What was the group's plan?

3. How did the annual tradition begin?

4. What is an effigy?

5. Why is safety important at modern celebrations?

4. Discuss. Talk in small groups. Give reasons and examples.

- Should historical events always be celebrated?
- Why are fireworks exciting for many people?
- What safety advice would you give at a public display?
- Does learning the history change your view of the event?

5. Homework: Write a descriptive paragraph.

Write 120-150 words about a historical event that is remembered in your country.

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ANSWER KEY AND TEACHING NOTE

Vocabulary matching

1. plot - B
2. Parliament - D
3. commemorate - F
4. bonfire - A
5. effigy - E
6. spectacle - C

Comprehension answers

1. What does Guy Fawkes Night commemorate?

It commemorates the failure of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605.

2. What was the group's plan?

They planned to destroy the Houses of Parliament.

3. How did the annual tradition begin?

People lit fires to celebrate the survival of the king.

4. What is an effigy?

It is a model of a person.

5. Why is safety important at modern celebrations?

Fireworks and bonfires can be dangerous, so people need to watch from a safe distance.

Teaching note

Compare matching answers before reading. Accept other article-supported comprehension answers; discussion and homework answers vary. Discuss customs respectfully, distinguishing religious, cultural and personal traditions.