

# 9.1 Remember, Remember The 5th Of November

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## Preparation

Search and display an image of the gunpowder plot.



Many occasions throughout the year have their beginnings in events that took place many years ago. In the UK and around the world, a number of celebrations take place during Autumn remembering events of the past. Sukkot is a Jewish festival that remembers Jewish ancestors living in tents looking for a land to call their own. Diwali is celebrated by a number of religions including Hinduism that recalls the story of Rama and Sita. Some festivals like Sukkot and Diwali are on a different date each year. Other occasions like Halloween and All Saints day are celebrated on the same day each year. What day is Halloween? (31st October) When is All Saints' Day? (1st November)

Celebrations are a link to the past; they are a reminder of events that took place many years ago and provide an opportunity for communities to celebrate and remember together. Most celebrations will remember a specific event in the past with people today performing certain actions or rituals. During Sukkot, many Jews remember their ancestors living in tents by making a makeshift shelter in their back garden and sleeping and eating in it. During Diwali, the story of Rama and Sita is retold with the use of puppets.

The 5th of November has its own unique events that remind us of the past. What is the 5th of November commonly called? What events in the past does it remember? What happens today?

The original event that is remembered took place in 1605. The details as to why a number of people wanted to blow up King James I and the House of Lords are slightly complicated, but on the 5th November, the state opening of parliament, Guy Fawkes was found in the cellars of the Houses of Parliament with barrels full of gunpowder. The plot to blow up the King and his government had been stopped and it is said that celebration fires were lit across London. In January, the same month of the trial of Guy Fawkes and the other conspirators, Parliament passed the 'Thanksgiving Act'. The 5th November was declared as an annual celebration. Originally celebrated with prayers and bell ringing it soon developed the practices that we still use today.

Many folksongs were written about the event, one that you may recognise goes like this.

*Remember, remember!  
The fifth of November,  
The Gunpowder treason and plot;  
I know of no reason  
Why the Gunpowder treason  
Should ever be forgot!  
Guy Fawkes and his companions*



*Did the scheme contrive,  
To blow the King and Parliament  
All up alive.  
Threescore barrels, laid below,  
To prove old England's overthrow.  
But, by God's providence, him they catch,  
With a dark lantern, lighting a match!  
A stick and a stake  
For King James's sake!  
If you won't give me one,  
I'll take two,  
The better for me,  
And the worse for you.  
A rope, a rope, to hang the Pope,  
A penn'orth of cheese to choke him,  
A pint of beer to wash it down,  
And a jolly good fire to burn him.  
Holloa, boys! holloa, boys! make the  
bells ring!  
Holloa, boys! holloa boys! God save  
the King!  
Hip, hip, hooor-r-r-ray!*

Bonfire night is a reminder of an event that happened over four hundred years ago. Guy Fawkes had his part to play in the plot to blow up the houses of parliament, but he is just a small part of a much bigger story. The events of the original bonfire night would make a great film; they give us an insight into what people believed and how they lived. For some people, it is important to find out as much as they can about the

events that are celebrated today, for others the celebration is about spending time with family and friends. This week we are going to explore some of the traditions that take place during bonfire night.

## Time to reflect

- What events in the past do you celebrate?
- What customs do you practice that directly remember an event in the past?
- Do you know the full story of events that you celebrate?
- Do you think it is important to remember the past in this way?

## Reflection (Prayer)

*(Dear God)*

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



## 9.2 Robert Catesby

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Does anyone know who came up with the gunpowder plot? Robert Catesby. He thought up the plan and found others that wanted to help meeting in a pub called the Duck and Drake in London. The 5th of November 1605 was the state opening of parliament, this was the day when the members of the government met in the houses of parliament for the first time after a break. The explosion would have killed many important people of the time. Guy Fawkes was involved as he was an expert in explosives. Robert Catesby and others had planned to start an 'uprising' across England that would change the way England was ruled.

Those that were involved in the plot had friends who would have been at the state opening of parliament. A letter was written and given to one parliamentarian ten days before the state opening warning him to stay away. The letter made its way to an important member of parliament. Inspecting the cellars, barrels of gunpowder were found and so was the only member of the group Guy Fawkes.

### Time to reflect

- Why do you think it is Guy Fawkes that is remembered rather than Robert Catesby?
- Do you think it is important to know the whole story?
- Do you know the stories behind the events you celebrate?

### Reflection (Prayer)

*(Dear God)*

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*





## 9.3 John Johnson

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Who was the person that came up with the plot to blow up the House of Lords? What was the name of the pub that he and others met in?

Guy Fawkes joined the group because he was an expert at using explosives. The group rented a house in London under Guy Fawkes' false name of 'John Johnson'. They also were able to rent a cellar under the Houses of Parliament. In the months leading up to November, the cellar was filled with 36 barrels of gunpowder. On the evening of the 4th November, two men, Sir Thomas Knyvett and Edward Doubleday found the gunpowder and John Johnson. Even though the gunpowder had been found, Robert Catesby decided to continue with their plan and try and start an uprising to see an end to King James I rule over England. Robert and others rode to Warwick Castle and then on to Holbeche house in Staffordshire where they were all either killed in a gun battle or caught and sentenced to death.

Knowing more about the events in the past can help us to understand why we do some of the things that we do today. Bonfire night

celebrates Sir Thomas Knyvett and Edward Doubleday stopping Guy Fawkes from blowing up the houses of parliament.

### Time to reflect

- Have you learned something about the 'gunpowder' plot that you didn't know before?
- Does it make bonfire night more interesting? Why?
- Do you need to know the original story to be able to enjoy bonfire night?

### Reflection (Prayer)

*(Dear God)*

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



## 9.4 Penny For The Guy

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### Preparation

Search and display an image of 'penny for the guy'.

What will you be doing (or what did you do) around the 5th November this year?

The story of Guy Fawkes has been remembered for over 400 years but over the years, certain traditions have become an important part of bonfire night whilst others have come and gone.

### Bonfires

It is said that bonfires were lit on the 5th November 1605 as people heard about Guy Fawkes and the failed plan to blow up the houses of parliament. Bonfires have been a way of bring communities together long before the time of Guy Fawkes. Nowadays, there are organised bonfires and firework displays in towns and cities across the UK.

### Penny for the guy

Have you heard the phrase 'penny for the guy'? People have been making 'guys' since the late 1600's. Old clothes were filled with straw to make them look like a person. The 'guys' were then carried through the streets with children carrying them shouting "penny for the guy". Money collected would be used to buy sweets (or fireworks when they

became popular). The burning of the guy became an important part of bonfire night celebrations in the 1800's, although making and burning figures of people goes back much further. Making and burning guys is still popular in some places of the UK today.

### Bonfire night food

Do you have any foods that your family likes to eat around bonfire night? Over the years different foods have been connected with this time of year. Potatoes cooked in the bonfires are popular, as is bonfire toffee or a special cake called 'parkin'.

### Time to reflect

- Discuss traditions that pupils' practice during this time of year.

### Reflection (Prayer)

*(Dear God)*

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



## 9.5 Same Event, Different Traditions

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The bonfire plot was organised to take place during the state opening of parliament. The state opening of parliament is when the King or Queen starts what is called the 'parliamentary year'. We have the school year; MP's have the parliamentary year. In 1605 the state opening of parliament took place on November 5th, the state opening of parliament now takes place around May. Each year, before the state opening of parliament, the houses of parliament are searched by the Queen's bodyguard looking for any potential Guy Fawkes.

This week we have explored the first bonfire night and we have looked at some of the modern-day traditions. Different towns and cities around the UK may have different traditions around bonfire night. In the town of Ottery St Mary in Devon, the men of the town carry flaming tar barrels. Lewes in Sussex boasts the largest November 5th event in the world. *There are some good photos online – but remind pupils 'not to try this at home.'*

Yesterday we talked about the different traditions that pupils in this class celebrate at this time of year. Traditions connected to bonfire night have developed over time, some traditions have faded away whilst others are quite new. Some traditions like penny for the guy make us think of the

original event whilst others like bonfire toffee have nothing to do with story of Robert Catesby or Guy Fawkes. Traditions no matter what they are celebrating are an important way for communities and families to come together.

### Time to reflect

- What family traditions do you have that others don't?
- Do you know how some of the traditions started?
- There are not that many countries that celebrate bonfire night, what would you say if someone asked you, 'why is bonfire night celebrated?'

### Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. (Amen)

