

Webquest: Bonfire Night

by Gabrielle Jones

Activity 1: Warmer

Bonfire Night is a British tradition that is celebrated every year on 5 November. It is also known as Guy Fawkes' Night. We'll be learning more about this tradition but, before we begin, take a look at these words – do you know what they mean? Work in pairs or small groups. You can use an online dictionary to help you, for example www.macmillandictionary.com.

barrels	cellars	gunpowder
basement	fireworks	parliament
execution	blow up	plot
bonfire	effigy	treason

Activity 2: The Gunpowder Plot

Bonfire Night is an event to celebrate the anniversary of a famous event in British history. Visit this website: www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/15351828. Then, answer the questions below:

1. What do people burn on their bonfires today?
2. What did Guy Fawkes plan to do?
3. Why did Guy Fawkes and his group put gunpowder in the parliament?
4. How did people find out about the Gunpowder Plot?
5. What happened to Guy Fawkes and his group?
6. What was the reason behind the Gunpowder Plot?

When you're finished, compare what you found out in small groups.

Activity 3: The people involved in the Gunpowder Plot

Now, go to this website and find out more about the people who were involved in the plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament: www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/parliamentaryauthority/the-gunpowder-plot-of-1605/overview/people-behind-the-plot.

Student A – Read and choose three things you want to tell your group about Robert Catesby and Thomas Percy.

Student B – Read and choose three things you want to tell your group about Francis Tresham and Guy Fawkes.

Student C – Read and choose three things you want to tell your group about John and Christopher Wright.

When you have finished, spend a few minutes in a group of three explaining what information you found out about people involved in the Gunpowder Plot.

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Activity 4: Bonfire Night celebrations

Now, visit this website: www.bonfirenight.net/bonfire.php.

Student A – Read the first three paragraphs and answer these questions:

1. How soon did Bonfire Night celebrations begin after the Gunpowder Plot?
2. How did the Bonfire Night rituals change in the years after 1605?
3. Effigies of which famous people were placed on the fire?
4. How do people prepare for Bonfire Night?

Student B – Read the last three paragraphs and answer these questions:

1. Apart from a bonfire, what else do people typically light on Bonfire Night?
2. Where is Lewes and why does it attract visitors?
3. Where else is the tradition of Bonfire Night celebrated?
4. Which place gave Bonfire Night an alternative name? What was the name?

When you have finished, discuss the questions that you worked on in pairs or small groups.

Activity 5: Bonfire Night recipes

You are going to read the recipes for three traditional foods that people eat on Bonfire Night.

Student A – Visit this page and find out about Parkin cake:

www.learnenglish.de/recipe/parkin.html

1. What are the main ingredients?
2. How is it prepared?
3. How long does it take?

Student B – Visit this page and find out about toffee apples:

www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/13599/homemade-toffee-apples

1. What are the main ingredients?
2. How is it prepared?
3. How long does it take?

Student C – Visit this page and find out about baked potatoes:

www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/1759659/bonfire-night-baked-potatoes

1. What are the main ingredients?
2. How is it prepared?
3. How long does it take?

When you are finished, work in groups of three. Explain to each other what your recipe is, what ingredients are needed, how to prepare the food and how long you need.

Discussion: Do you eat these dishes, or something similar, in your country? What do people typically eat on a cold night?

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Activity 6: Fireworks – staying safe

Visit this site: www.learnenglish.de/culture/bonfirenight.html. Read from the paragraph that begins 'New laws were introduced to control the use of fireworks in 2004 ...'. When you have finished, answer these questions:

1. How old must people be to use fireworks?
2. Do you need a special license to hold a public fireworks display?
3. At what time of night can people normally not use fireworks?
4. What are the exceptions?
5. What are people not allowed to do with fireworks?

Activity 7: Review task

If you have time, you can play an interactive game to check what you can remember about the Gunpowder Plot and Guy Fawkes.

www.bbc.co.uk/history/interactive/games/gunpowder/index_embed.shtml