

The History of Bonfire Night



8 The tradition of Bonfire Night arises from the
19 plotting by a gang of men to blow up the Houses
28 of Parliament on the 5th of November 1605. Guy
36 Fawkes and the other men planned to commit
44 **treason** when King James I was present inside
53 the Houses of Parliament because they disliked how he
55 ruled England.

63 The plan was for Guy Fawkes to set
68 off explosives underneath the Houses
74 of Parliament, using 36 barrels of
79 gunpowder. However, the plot was
84 uncovered leading to the capture
87 of all involved.



97 As a result of the plan being thwarted, people were
105 encouraged to light bonfires around London to celebrate.
113 Later, this became a tradition around the country
119 known as Guy Fawkes Night or
123 Gunpowder Treason Day. Today,
129 we know it as Bonfire Night.



Glossary

138 **treason:** A crime of doing something that could
141 endanger your country.

Questions



1. Who was the ruler of England in 1605?



2. Why do you think lighting bonfires was chosen as the way to celebrate the capture of the men?



3. Find and copy a word that is similar in meaning to 'arrangement'.



4. What have you learnt about Bonfire Night that you didn't know before? Explain your answer.

Disclaimer: Sensitive and/or upsetting topics may emotionally impact your learners due to past experiences. You should consider whether this content is appropriate and ensure adequate support is available for anyone affected.

Disclaimer: We hope you find the information and resources on our website useful. Please be aware that aspects of an individual's life may be controversial to some. Due to this, we highly recommend that you carefully research the individual before teaching about them to learners. If your learners do independent research about an individual, we advise using only pre-selected, appropriate sources of information and websites appropriate to their age.

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Answers



1. Who was the ruler of England in 1605?

King James I was the ruler of England in 1605.



2. Why do you think lighting bonfires was chosen as the way to celebrate the capture of the men?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that bonfires were chosen because Guy Fawkes had planned to cause an enormous bonfire when he was going to blow up the Houses of Parliament.



3. Find and copy a word that is similar in meaning to 'arrangement'.

Accept any of the following: planned; plan; plot.



4. What have you learnt about Bonfire Night that you didn't know before? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I have learnt that it has not always been known as Bonfire Night and was called Guy Fawkes Night and Gunpowder Treason Day.

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