



Guy Fawkes Night (UK)



Guy Fawkes Night

British people celebrate Guy Fawkes Night, also called Bonfire Night, every November 5 commemorating the failure of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Outraged by the King's religious intolerance to Catholics, a group of conspirators led by Robert Catesby planned to explode the Houses of Parliament to kill James I (an Anglican king) and part of the aristocracy. They wanted to re-establish Catholic rule in England. Guy Fawkes was a member of the group. On the evening before, an anonymous letter revealed the plot to the King who sent soldiers to arrest Guy Fawkes and his friends in the cellars of the building, full of barrels of explosives. Guy Fawkes was tried, convicted and executed. Since then, November 5 has been declared an annual public day of thanksgiving for the plot's failure. Traditionally, children make a "Guys" made of old clothes, ask "a Penny for the Guy" and use the money to buy sparklers and sweets. Then the effigy is burnt on top of a bonfire. People organize parties, look at fireworks and eat jacket potatoes, hotdogs, sausages, pork pies, and toffee apples.

Teaching ideas

★★★ **CYCLE 4** - Play Hangman with the vocabulary related to Bonfire Night: Houses of Parliament / Guy Fawkes / fireworks / Bonfire / Toffee apple / Barrel / James I.

★★★★ **LYCÉE** - Ask your pupils to write a safety manual entitled: Dos and Don'ts: fireworks and bonfires manual for children.