

Bonfire Night: The Real Story

The short version everyone knows, and the fuller one worth telling.

On 5 November 1605, a group of conspirators tried to blow up the House of Lords, aiming to kill King James I during the State Opening of Parliament. The plot grew out of years of persecution of Catholics in England.

The plot was organised by Robert Catesby, not Guy Fawkes. Fawkes was a soldier with explosives experience, given the job of guarding the 36 barrels of gunpowder hidden in a cellar beneath the House of Lords.

An anonymous tip-off led to Fawkes being discovered guarding the gunpowder in the early hours of 5 November. He and the other conspirators were arrested and later executed. Londoners lit bonfires that same night in celebration that the King had survived.

Now it's your turn to write

1 What surprised you about the real story?

2 Draw or describe a firework you would design

3 Write one line of your own "Remember, remember" style rhyme

This is an activity and reflection sheet, not a legal requirement. There is no obligation to mark either date in any particular way as a home educating family.



Remembrance Day: A Quiet Guide

11am, 11 November. Two minutes, and whatever reflection feels right for your family.

At 11am on 11 November 1918, the fighting of the First World War stopped. A year later, King George V asked the country to observe two minutes of silence, and it has been kept at 11am on 11 November every year since.

The red poppy became the symbol of remembrance after poppies were found growing across the battlefields of Flanders, and it now marks all those who have died in conflict, supported by the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

A place to write what remembrance means to your family this year

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