

BONFIRE NIGHT / GUY FAWKES NIGHT

Read the text and answer the questions:

Every year on the 5th of November people across the UK celebrate Bonfire Night or Guy Fawkes Night, they enjoy fireworks and bonfire parties, but not many people really know the reason behind the celebration.

Its history begins more than 400 years ago. After Queen Elizabeth I took the throne of England in 1558, she made some laws against the Roman Catholics. They were treated unfairly and hoped that the new king, James I, would change the laws, but he didn't. Instead, he passed even more laws against the Catholics when he became the King of England after the death of Elizabeth I in 1603. At that time, Catholic people in England were discriminated against. For example, Catholics were not allowed an education and had to practice their religion in secret. There were even fines for people who didn't attend the Protestant church on Sunday or on holy days.

Guy Fawkes was one of those people who didn't feel happy with the ways Catholics were treated at that time. So, in 1605, group of 14 Catholic men led by Robert Catesby, plotted to kill King James and his leaders. They wanted to blow up the House of Parliament in London on the day set for the King James to open the Parliament. The men bought a house next door to the House of Parliament. The house had a cellar which went under the parliament building. They placed 36 barrels of gunpowder under the house and waited for the king to arrive. Guy Fawkes was given a job to keep watch over the barrels of gunpowder and to light the fuse. But the guards found out about the secret plan after an anonymous letter was sent to one of the lords telling him not to attend the opening of the Parliament.. On the morning of the 5th of November, soldiers discovered Guy Fawkes hidden in the cellar and arrested him. Guy Fawkes was taken to the Tower of London where he told the truth about the plot after he was tortured. Guy Fawkes and his people were executed.

In celebration of his survival, King James ordered that the people of England should have a great bonfire on the night on the 5th of November. In 1706, the 1st year to follow Guy Fawkes failed Gunpowder Plot, a dummy of the Pope was burned on the bonfire. Since then, a dummy has been burned, even though Guy Fawkes was not actually put to death that way.

Since then, every year on the 5th of November, the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot, Guy Fawkes is remembered. Throughout England, in town and villages, people light huge bonfires, let off magnificent fireworks, burn an effigy (a homemade model of a man, like a scarecrow) and celebrate the fact the Parliament and James I were not blown sky high by Guy Fawkes. The celebration is known as Guy Fawkes Night or bonfire Night.



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Tick ✓ the box next to the correct option:



1 When is Bonfire Night celebrated?

- A on the 5th of November
- B on the 5th of October
- C on the 5th of December

2 What is another name for Bonfire Night?

- A Firework Night
- B Guy Fawkes Night
- C Halloween

3 Why were Catholics discriminated against?

- A because of their race
- B because of their disability
- C because of their religion

4 What year did the Gunpowder Plot take place?

- A 1505
- B 1605
- C 1705

5 How many people set the Gunpowder Plot?

- A 14
- B 40
- C 15

6 Who was the leader of the Gunpowder Plot?

- A Guy Fawkes
- B Robert Catesby
- C King James I

7 What did they plan to do?

- A to have a bonfire
- B to sell barrels of gunpowder
- C to blow up the House of Parliament

8 Who did they want to kill?

- A King James I and his Parliament
- B Queen Elizabeth I and her Parliament
- C the Parliament

9 Where did they put the barrels of gunpowder?

- A on the roof
- B in the basement
- C by the wall

10 How many gunpowder barrels were there?

- A 36
- B 63
- C 52

11 Who was arrested on the 5th of November 1605?

- A King James I
- B Guy Fawkes
- C Robert Catesby

12 Who ordered to celebrate the failed plot?

- A the Parliament
- B King James I
- C Guy Fawkes

ANSWERS

1 - a

2 - b

3 - c

4 - b

5 - a

6 - b

7 - c

8 - a

9 - b

10 - a

11 - b

12 - b