

History – The Great Fire of London and Bonfire Night

What I should already know

- Similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods.
- Some of the ways that we find out about the past.

Key Vocabulary

Treason	The offense of acting to overthrow one's government.
Plot	A secret plan or scheme to accomplish some purpose, especially a hostile, unlawful, or evil purpose
Tradition	an event or custom that is passed down in history.
Celebrate	a happy event to celebrate it.
Hero	A person noted for courageous acts or special achievements.
Villain	A cruel person who is involved in wickedness or crime.



Bonfire Night Key Facts

- 5th November is known as Bonfire Night or Guy Fawkes Night.
- Guy Fawkes was a Catholic, and didn't agree with the Protestant faith of the King.
- Guy Fawkes was arrested in the basement on the day he was going to light the gunpowder, 5 November 1605, and he was taken to the Tower of London.
- King James I decreed that 5 November should be the day that people always celebrate that the Gunpowder Plot didn't happen.
- On Bonfire Night, grown-ups set off fireworks, light bonfires, and sometimes burn a doll that looks like Guy Fawkes.
- It was once illegal not to celebrate Bonfire Night in Britain.

What I will know by the end of the unit

- Can retell the story of an event.
- Can identify several causes and effects of an event.
- Can use a wider range of terms and phrases related to the past.
- Know where the events fit within a chronological timeline.

Great Fire of London Key Facts

- The Great Fire of London happened between 2-5 September in 1666.
- The fire began in a bakery in Pudding Lane.
- Before the fire began, there had been a drought in London that lasted for 10 months, so the city was very dry.
- In 1666, lots of people had houses made from wood and straw which burned easily. Houses were also built very close together.
- We know what happened during the fire because people back then wrote about it in letters and newspapers – for instance, Samuel Pepys wrote about it in his diary.
- When houses were rebuilt, a lot of them were made out of bricks instead of wood, and they weren't built so close together.

Key questions to think about:

- ❖ Was Guy Fawkes a hero or a villain?
- ❖ Why do we commemorate Bonfire Night?
- ❖ Should we still celebrate Bonfire Night?
- ❖ How did the fire spread?
- ❖ How has London changed since 1666?