

November 5th is Guy Fawkes Day in Britain. All over the country people build wood fires, or „bonfires“, in their gardens. On top of each bonfire is a guy. That’s a figure of Guy Fawkes. People make guys with straw, old clothes, and newspaper. But before November 5th, children use their guys to make money. They stand in the street and shout „Penny for the guy“. Then they spend the money on fireworks.

How did this tradition start? Who was Guy Fawkes and why do the British remember him on November 5th?

On November 5th, 1605, Guy Fawkes tried to kill the King James I. He and a group of friends put a bomb under the Houses of Parliament in London.

But the King’s men found the bomb – and they found Guy Fawkes, too. They took him to the Tower of London and there the King’s men cut off his head.



Guy Fawkes’ Day 250 years ago:
Bonfire at Windsor Castle

A **bonfire** is a large fire made outdoors to celebrate some event (or just to burn dead leaves, rubbish, etc.)

CROSS OUT THE UNSUITABLE OPTION:

Guy Fawkes Day is celebrated every year on **January 1st / November 5th**. It started **in England / the U.S.A** and later spread to many other places around the world, including **China / Canada**, South Africa, and Australia. The event is also known as **Bonfire / Valentine Night**.

Guy Fawkes Day celebrates the **success / failure** of a plot against the **English government / Church of England** in 1605. Several people, **including / except** a man named Guy Fawkes, planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament. However, **Scotland Yard / the government** found out about the plot before the attack could take place. The government arrested Guy Fawkes and his conspirators. This **was the beginning of / brought an end to** what became known as the Gunpowder Plot.

Guy Fawkes and the others were **convicted of treason / invited by the King**. The Parliament then announced a national day of **thanksgiving / mourning** to celebrate their survival. The ceremony was set for the day the attack would have taken place. The **first / last** celebration was held on November 5th, 1606.

Today, Guy Fawkes Day is celebrated with feasts, bonfires, and **ice cream / fireworks**. Straw men designed to look like Guy Fawkes, called **“boys” / “guys”**, are often burned as well. Children like to make their own guys and then take them around their neighborhoods asking for **“mercy for Guy Fawkes” / “a penny for the guy”**.