British festivals: Guy Fawkes, Bonfire Night

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**Abstract**
The powerpoint explained next is about the festivity of "Guy Fawkes", or also known as "Bonfire Night". Through different images the story is told and the meaning of why it is celebrated is explained, not very known in Spain. Information is given about how it is celebrated in the United Kingdom and the different activities children carry out there. A rhyme will be taught and finally evaluation activities are given.

**Keywords:** british culture, guy fawkes, bonfire night.

British culture is one of the most important aspects to treat in our English classroom. Pupils must know different vocabulary and structures, but also they will have to learn how to value the foreign language. For this reason, it is necessary to teach cultural aspects, one example is the following one.

In Great Britain, as in all the countries there are many popular festivals, such as: Christmas, Easter, Carnival...
But we are going to concentrate on one which is not very known in Spain: Bonfire Night.

Bonfire Night is celebrated in relation to Guy Fawkes every 5th November. People get together in a big party with food, drinks, a bonfire and fireworks.

Bonfire Night is celebrated the 5th of November. In the picture you can see James I, the king of England and a Protestant. Many people did not like him because they were Catholics and wanted a Catholic king. We are going to see the big conflict that happened because of religion.

IN 1605,
JAMES I
WAS THE
KING OF
ENGLAND
Here is a picture of Guy Fawkes, can you see it? He is with his friends. All of them were catholic. Guy Fawkes, and his friends, had a plot to kill King James and his government, when he opened parliament in London on 5 November 1605.

They put thirty-six boxes of gunpowder in a room underneath the House of Parliament. They wanted to kill everyone at the same time.

Can you see the Parliament? Can you recognize something in the picture? Big Ben is the main tower of Parliament.
But the plan did not work. One of Guy Fawkes’ friends wrote a note to someone about it. At about midnight on 4 November, the king’s soldiers found Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder. They sent him to prison but he did not want to give the names of his friends. They did terrible things to him for eight days until he said all their names.

Parliament decided that Guy Fawkes and the other plotters were dead; they made many fires in the streets to celebrate. King James was alive and well!

Every year on 5 November, in most parts of Britain, people build a big fire outside, with all the dead leaves and old pieces of wood they did not want. The fire is called bonfire.
They made a dummy (called a ‘guy’) of Guy Fawkes, from old clothes.

Sometimes children carry the guy around the streets to show it to the people. They say: ‘Penny for the guy’, and ask people for money for fireworks.

Some people have a bonfire with fireworks in their garden, but fireworks are expensive, so often people get together and have one big party in a park or a field. It is usually very cold in November, so they have a hot food and drinks to keep warm.
Many children learn these old words about Guy Fawkes’ Day:

Remember, remember,
The fifth of November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot...

We will explain the meaning of this rhyme and also help the pupils to learn it.

"Remember, remember, 
the fifth of November, 
Gunpowder, treason and plot. 
We see no reason why 
Gunpowder treason 
Should ever be forgot!"

Finally, to review some of the contents taught we will have different questions. The children will put their hands up if they know the answers; with the correct answers they will win one positive point in the English subject. It is always advisable at the end of each lesson to make a self-evaluation activity.

**WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?**

- When is Bonfire night celebrated?
- Did Guy Fawkes try to burn the houses of Parliament?
- Who was king of England? Was he protestant or catholic? And the people?
- Did the king discover the plan?
- What do the children ask for?
- Complete: Remember, remember...

This is an example of a powerpoint presentation to introduce or review bonfire night. There are many different activities children can do in relation with this topic, such as: posters, crosswords, board games, dominoes, songs...