

What is a tradition?

A tradition is an activity that started many years ago and is still done in present times. A tradition usually starts as part of a religion, culture or event in history. A tradition is usually done in the same way on or around a specific day. A tradition usually happens once a year and usually involves more than one person.

Sometimes a tradition comes from a belief people had many years ago. Although people may not have that belief today they may still celebrate the tradition. Many children and adults enjoy celebrating a tradition.

Groups of people may have their own traditions, for example my family has a tradition of

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Market Field School has a tradition of

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Examples of traditions are the celebrations of Christmas, Birthdays, Easter, Harvest Festival, Valentines Day, Halloween, and Bonfire Night.

Where does the tradition of Bonfire Night come from?

Bonfire Night is a tradition that happens on November 5th in many parts of the U.K. Bonfire night is celebrated in other countries too. Bonfire Night is sometimes also called Firework Night, or Guy Fawkes, or just November 5th.

Sometimes a tradition like Bonfire Night comes from an event that happened many years ago. The tradition of having a bonfire on November 5th began in 1605 when a man called Guy Fawkes made a plan to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I. The plan was called the Gunpowder Plot. The plot was discovered and stopped and the King was saved. To celebrate the King being saved many of his people lit bonfires and placed a pretend figure of Guy Fawkes on their bonfires. The government declared November 5th as a day of celebration.

The tradition of celebrating November 5th with a bonfire and fireworks still happens in present times.

What happens on Bonfire Night?

Many people enjoy Bonfire night as a family tradition rather than a celebration of saving King James I. Family and friends may meet up to watch fireworks together. They may have a bonfire too. Sometimes people have special food and drink.

Sometimes people watch fireworks in their own garden and sometimes they go to public firework displays. Public displays usually happen in a park or a wide-open space. Lots of people pay for a ticket to come and watch the firework display. Public displays usually have a big bonfire and a lot of fireworks. Sometimes there is music too. These displays sometimes take place on November 5th and sometimes on a weekend close to November 5th.

Fireworks are usually noisy and make colourful patterns in the night sky. Many people enjoy watching them outside. Some people prefer to stay indoors to watch through a window and this is okay. Some people prefer to do something else and this is okay too.

Bonfire night is a family tradition that happens around November 5th once a year.

What is a firework?

A firework is usually a card container full of gunpowder and chemicals. When lit with a match or lighter it explodes into color. The explosion usually makes a loud noise. Some fireworks are attached to a post or stand on the ground. Some fireworks called rockets fly up into the sky and explode into color there. Some fireworks have colors that change as they burn, some fireworks are just one color.

Fireworks are usually used to celebrate a special event or a tradition. The celebrations are usually at night so the colors can be seen better on the dark background of a night sky.

It is important that only adults who understand about lighting fireworks safely are in charge of fireworks. Adults and children watching usually stand a safe distance away from the fireworks.

Many children enjoy watching fireworks outside. Some children prefer to stay indoors to watch and this is okay. Some children find ear defenders helpful when watching fireworks outside and indoors. Some children prefer not to watch fireworks and do something else and this is okay too.

Fireworks are often used on Bonfire Night, Christmas, and New Year and sometimes to celebrate a special occasion like a birthday or a wedding.