

Take One...

Guy Fawkes' lantern

ASHMOLEAN

Take One encourages teachers to use an object, painting or other resource imaginatively in the classroom, both as a stimulus for artwork, and for work in more unexpected curriculum areas. Work in many curriculum area can be inspired by using a single object as a starting point.

These notes are designed to help you use one object from our collection as a focus for cross-curricular teaching and learning.

A visit to the Ashmolean Museum to see your chosen object offers your class the perfect 'learning outside the classroom' opportunity.



Starting Questions

The following questions may be useful as a starting point for developing speaking and listening skills with your class.

- This lantern is not complete. What do you think is missing?
- What do you think it is made of? How many materials can you see?
- How would you use it?
Clue: Can you see the circular holder inside? What could you put in it?
- Look at the different parts of the lantern. What shapes can you see?

Guy Fawkes was caught in the Houses of Parliament in 1605 with 36 barrels of gunpowder, this lantern and a burning match. He was apparently about to blow up the King and the government.

The lantern is made of iron and would originally have had a translucent window made of deer horn. It also had an inner cylinder which could be closed to hide the light. Lanterns like these were called 'dark lanterns'.

Guy Fawkes' lantern
Ark to Ashmolean - Gallery 8

Background Information

The historical background

The Gunpowder Plot was a plan to kill James I, King of England. This was just one of several plots to depose the protestant King for his intolerance towards Catholics.

There were five main conspirators involved in the Gunpowder Plot: Robert Catesby (the leader), Thomas Winter, Thomas Percy, John Wright and, of course, Guy Fawkes. They intended to blow up the Houses of Parliament on 5th November 1605.



The conspirators smuggled 36 barrels of gunpowder by river, under cover of darkness into the cellars below the Houses of Parliament.

The explosion was planned to coincide with the state opening of Parliament when the King, Commons and Lords would all have been in the Lords' Chamber.

The plot was discovered after the Catholic Lord Monteagle received an anonymous letter warning him not to attend the state opening. Suspicions were raised, the cellars were searched, and Guy Fawkes and his gunpowder were discovered.

'Bonfire Night' has been celebrated on 5th November since the time of James I when an Act of Parliament was passed to name it as a day of thanksgiving. The Act remained in force until 1859.

The lantern

Guy Fawkes is said to have been carrying this lantern when he was arrested in the cellars of the Houses of Parliament in 1605. It is made of sheet iron with a holder for a candle inside. It has a hinged door which was once fitted with a window made of horn through which the light would glow. The vent at the top would have let out the heat. This vent is attached to an inner cylinder which could be rotated in order to conceal the light, and therefore the user!

The lantern was originally given to the University of Oxford in 1641 by Robert Heywood of Brasenose College. He was son of the Justice of the Peace who arrested Guy Fawkes. It has been in the Museum since 1887 when a number of objects were transferred to the Ashmolean from the Bodleian Library's collection of curiosities.

After years of handling by curious visitors at the Bodleian the lantern shows significant wear and tear.



Guy Fawkes

Guy Fawkes is often wrongly believed to have been one of the principal conspirators of the gunpowder plot. He actually played a small part in the proceedings. Assigned the task of lighting the fuses, Fawkes was discovered in the cellars below Parliament on the night of 4th November and his name, rather than the names of any of the other conspirators, has become synonymous with 'gunpowder, treason and plot'. Indeed, Fawkes was not even a Catholic by birth and had only converted from Protestantism in 1593 shortly before joining the Spanish army. Fawkes was tried for high treason along with the other conspirators on 27th January 1606. He was executed by hanging, drawing and quartering on 31st January 1606.



Ideas for Creative Planning across the KS1 and 2 Curriculum

You can use The Guy Fawkes' lantern as the starting point for developing pupils critical and creative thinking as well as their learning across the curriculum. You may want to consider possible themes or 'lines of enquiry' as a first step in your cross-curricular planning. Choosing a line of enquiry may help you to build strong links between curriculum areas.

After using strategies to aid looking and engagement with the object and by using questions to facilitate dialogue about the object you can work with the children to develop lines of enquiry that will interest them.

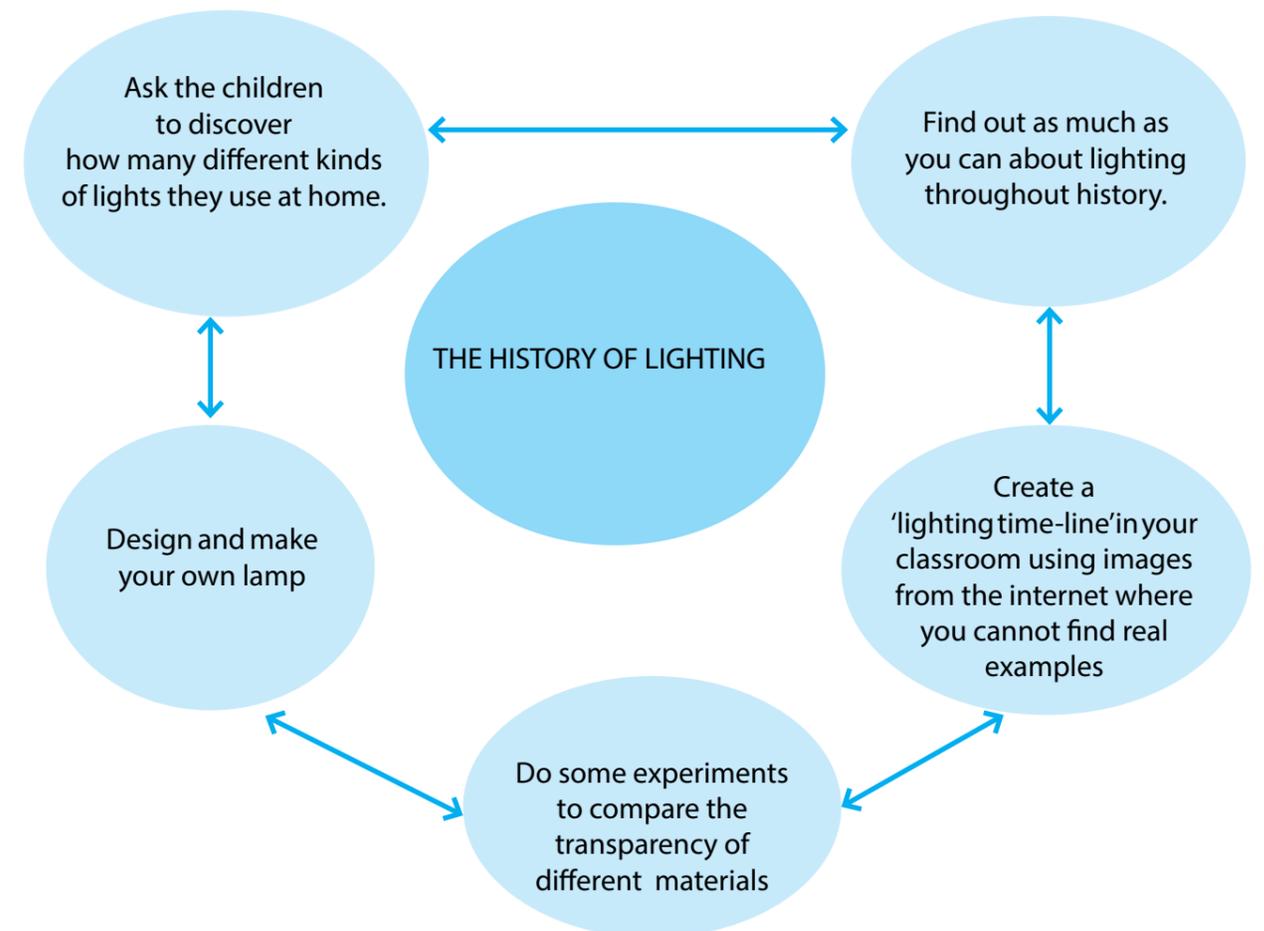
Here are a few suggestions of possible 'lines of enquiry' using Guy Fawkes' lantern:

- The Gunpowder Plot
- Crime and punishment
- The history of lighting
- Festivals of light around the world

Using one or more lines of enquiry as your starting point consider how you can work in a number of curriculum areas to build strong and truly cross-curricular links...

Using [The History of Lighting](#) as an example of a chosen line of enquiry

Here are a few ideas of how you can develop to create a range of learning opportunities to engage pupils with this line of enquiry. Each activity can link with the others to build on pupils' learning across the chosen theme.



Take One...

The challenge is for teachers to use objects to develop culturally enriching, relevant and practical learning opportunities across the curriculum

Tips for introducing objects to a class

- Display an image of the object in the classroom for a number of days with a tape recorder or 'graffiti wall' for children to add comments or questions about the object. Once the pupils' comments and questions have been gathered a class discussion can follow on.
- Cover the object and allow the children to feel it. Can they work out what it is without seeing it?
- Show the object to the class for a minute or two. Remove the object and see what they can remember.
- Introduce the object to the whole class in a question and answer session designed to take develop the pupils speaking and listening skills as outlined on page one.
- Work in pairs sitting back to back. One child describes the object and the other draws.
- Collect as many examples of similar objects from different time periods and explore the similarities and differences. Then try to sort the objects according to age.



Children visiting the Ashmolean made their own versions of the Guy Fawkes lantern.



Remember, remember the fifth of November

Gunpowder, treason and plot

I see no reason

Why gunpowder treason

Should ever be forgot.

Guy Fawkes, Guy Fawkes, t'was his intent

To blow up the king and parliament

Three score barrels of powder below

Poor old England to overthrow

By God's providence he was caught

With a dark lantern and burning match

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