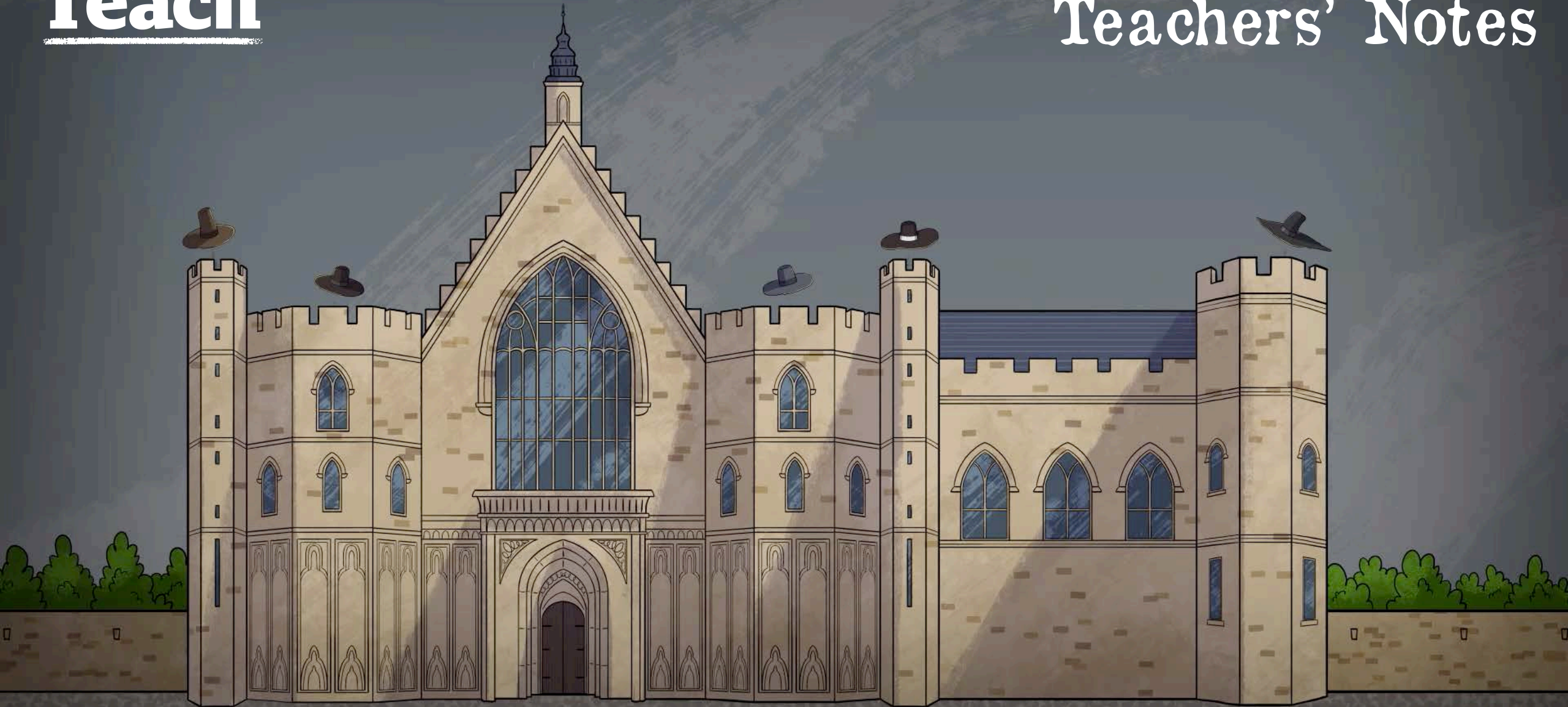


The Gunpowder Plot: Teachers' Notes



The Gunpowder Plot

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About this series

Throughout this series, we're invited to hear all about The Gunpowder Plot through the tales of a rat.

Our friendly presenter is an animated rat, Maureen. In each episode, Maureen recounts the stories passed on through her family, from generation to generation.

Her ancestors are all-seeing, all-hearing and have all-areas-access to the dirtiest, darkest corners of history.

In this series, we'll discover the events and conditions that led to The Gunpowder Plot, what happened when the plotters tried to execute their plans - and the consequences of their actions, right through to modern day bonfire night celebrations.



Why did The Gunpowder Plot happen?



Introduction

This animation sets up the story of The Gunpowder Plot. It begins at a modern-day bonfire night celebration, adding some context to the story. We go back in time to understand the circumstances that led to the plot being formed, meet key characters and learn what they planned to do to the king.

Before the video

Set the scene for the topic with a slow reveal of a picture, perhaps showing fireworks. What will we be learning about? Listen to the rhyme 'Remember, Remember the 5th of November'. What do you know about Bonfire Night? What do you enjoy about it? What is a tradition and why are traditions important to people?

Explain that we will be looking at an important event that happened in 1605. Look at the houses, clothing and characters of this period to give children an understanding of life in this era. Explore James VI of Scotland and I of England. Discuss the end of the Tudor and beginning of Stuart reign; give children a 'sense of period'. The animation alludes to 'then and now' activities, children could expand on these differences before watching the video in full.

Questions during the video

How long ago was the Gunpowder Plot? *416 years ago (as of 2021) - in 1605.*

Why would you get in trouble if you didn't go to church? *It was the law to attend Protestant mass and illegal to go to Catholic mass.*

Why did the rat yawn when talking about religious arguments? *Because disagreements had been happening for 100s of years. When a Protestant monarch was on the throne, Catholics weren't happy and when a Catholic monarch was on the throne, Protestants weren't happy. Arguments about religion were happening all over Europe. This wasn't a stand-alone event, so this is important for children to know and understand the context.*

What was Catesby's plot? *A plot is a plan. The plot is to kill James I and ensure a Catholic monarch would be restored to the throne.*

Who would use gunpowder to set Parliament alight? *Guido (we know him as Guy) Fawkes.*

What is parliament? *The law-making group, in the government of the UK.*

After the video

Repeat the end question on the video - What do you think happened when they tried to kill the king? The class could make predictions. What do you think happened to the plotters? What would happen if this happened today?

Activity - Write speech bubbles to show what you think the plotters said to each other when they met in secret.

Hot seating - in role as Catesby- convince us to join your gang and commit this crime.

What happened during The Gunpowder Plot?



Introduction

This animation tells the story of The Gunpowder Plot. We learn how the plotters planned to carry out their mission and how it ultimately failed. We follow the story through to the 4th November and Guy Fawkes' arrest.

Before the video

Watch video of fireworks – how do they work? Discuss the use of gunpowder in fireworks and in relation to The Gunpowder Plot.

Discuss what is important to the children, e.g. what they do in their free time. How would they feel if I took the things they like and made changes? This is a useful parallel to the religious context of the story.

What if they were then told they had to stick to my rules? Discuss how Catesby felt at being told he couldn't practise Catholicism. Was his motive right? Were his actions wrong?

Questions during the video

Did the plotters plan to break into Parliament? *No, the plotters did not break into the Houses of parliament. They actually took out a lease on the undercroft and had legal access. The barrels were built up over a number of months.*

Why did one of the plotters write to his relative? *His relative was due to travel to Parliament on that day and he wanted to keep them safe.*

Who saw the warning note? *James I*

Why does James VI have a Scottish accent? *He is also called James VI of Scotland. He ruled in Scotland before England.*

What did the guards do when they found Fawkes? *Arrested him. He was charged with treason.*

After the video

Listen to the question at the end of the video- What do you think will happen to him? Share ideas. What should happen to him?

Write a speech bubble from James I's point of view when he discovers the warning note.

Create a 'wanted' poster for Catesby.

Write a letter to James I from Fawkes' relatives to persuade him to let him go from the Tower of London.

What happened after The Gunpowder Plot?



Introduction

This animation explores the consequences of The Gunpowder Plot.

We discover what happened to Guy Fawkes, how the names of the other plotters were found and how the events led to modern-day celebrations.

Before the video

What does the word traitor mean?

What do you think will happen to the other plotters?

Should Guy Fawkes tell the truth?

Why did he use a fake name... and was it a convincing one?

Questions during the video

What is the Tower of London? *A historic castle/fortress by the River Thames. At the time it was used as a prison.*

How long did they torture Fawkes? *Three days of torture.*

What happened to the plotters? *Fawkes did receive the death penalty but leapt from the gallows breaking his neck in the process. He wasn't hung and quartered. Other plotters escaped execution. Catesby and others were killed in a gunfight, while another died from illness before he could stand trial.*

Why did they stick their heads on spikes? *As a warning not to commit treason.*

What was James I's new law? *A celebration to commemorate the capture of the plotters, every year on 5th November.*

After the video

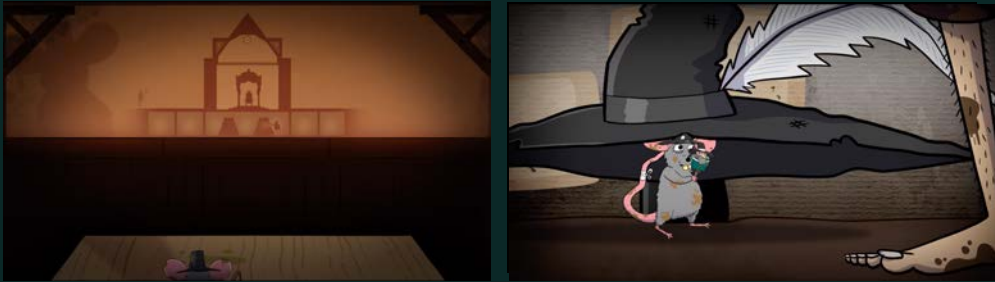
Explore how Bonfire Night has changed throughout time.

Sequence the events of the story. This could be done through drama.

Create a comic strip to show the events.

Should we still celebrate Bonfire Night? Class debate.

Cross-curricular ideas on The Gunpowder Plot



Art/Design and Technology

- Firework art using different materials
- Create shadow puppets and puppet theatre to retell the story
- Design and make your own Guy Fawkes hat
- Make masks to re-tell the story
- Create a 3D model of the Houses of Parliament
- Build your own firework rocket
- Build a bonfire. Make a guy for it.

PSHE

- Firework safety
- How can we solve disagreements? Circle time.

Religion

- What does tolerance mean? How do we show this? Link with British Values.

Science

- Explore explosion through a simple science experiment
- Use the children's rockets and make them explode!
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/science-design-and-technology-ks2-experimenting-propulsion-with-water-rockets/zfc9wtv>

English

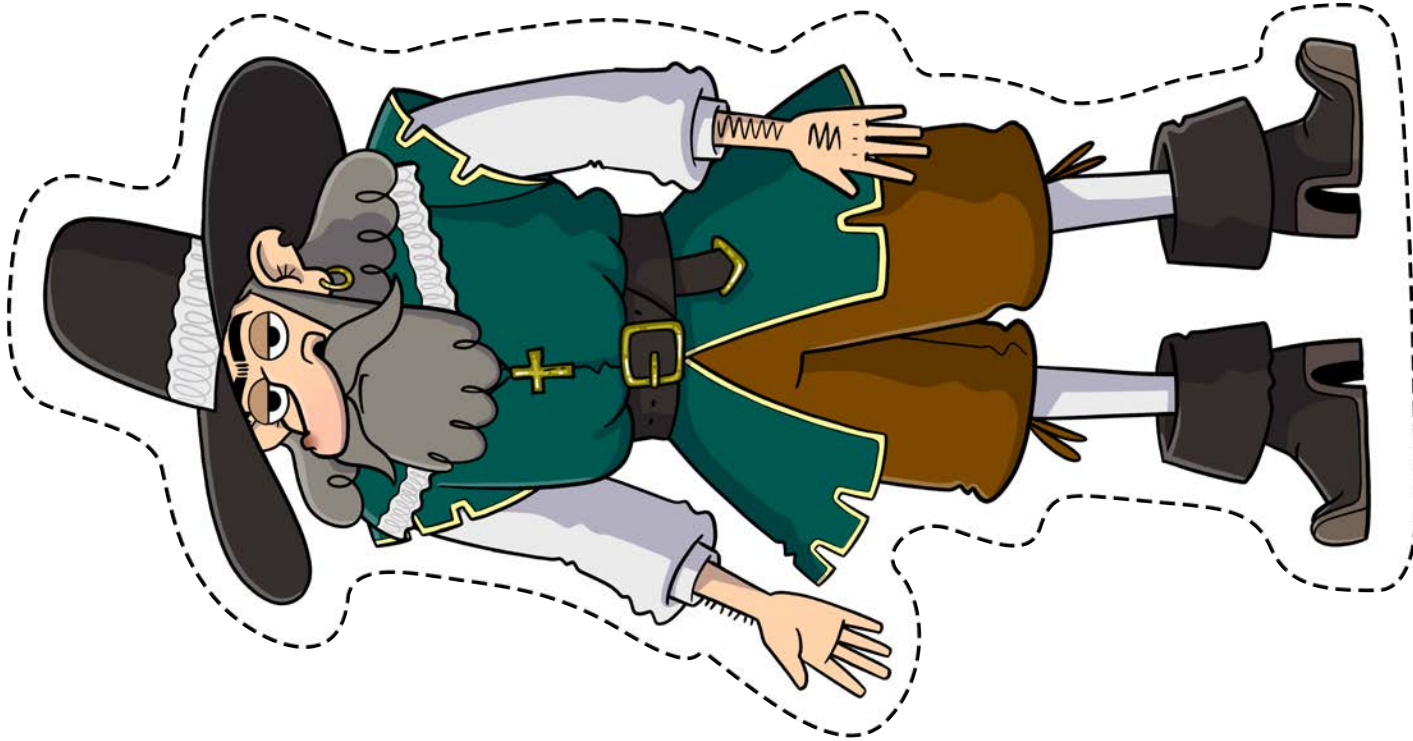
- Write a non-chronological report to explain what happened.
- Write a biography on Guido Fawkes/James I
- Create a 'wanted' poster for Catesby
- Explore the rhyme 'Remember, remember...' and look at repetition, rhyme, rhythm in poems.
- Write a diary entry from Fawkes' point of view
- Write a newspaper article to explain the events
- Create Bonfire Night safety guides.

Computing

- Create a video to demonstrate what we have learnt about firework safety

Shadow puppet template: Catesby and Guy Fawkes

Materials: one stick per character, glue and scissors



Cut out to use
(just add stick!)



Shadow puppet template: Maureen and The King

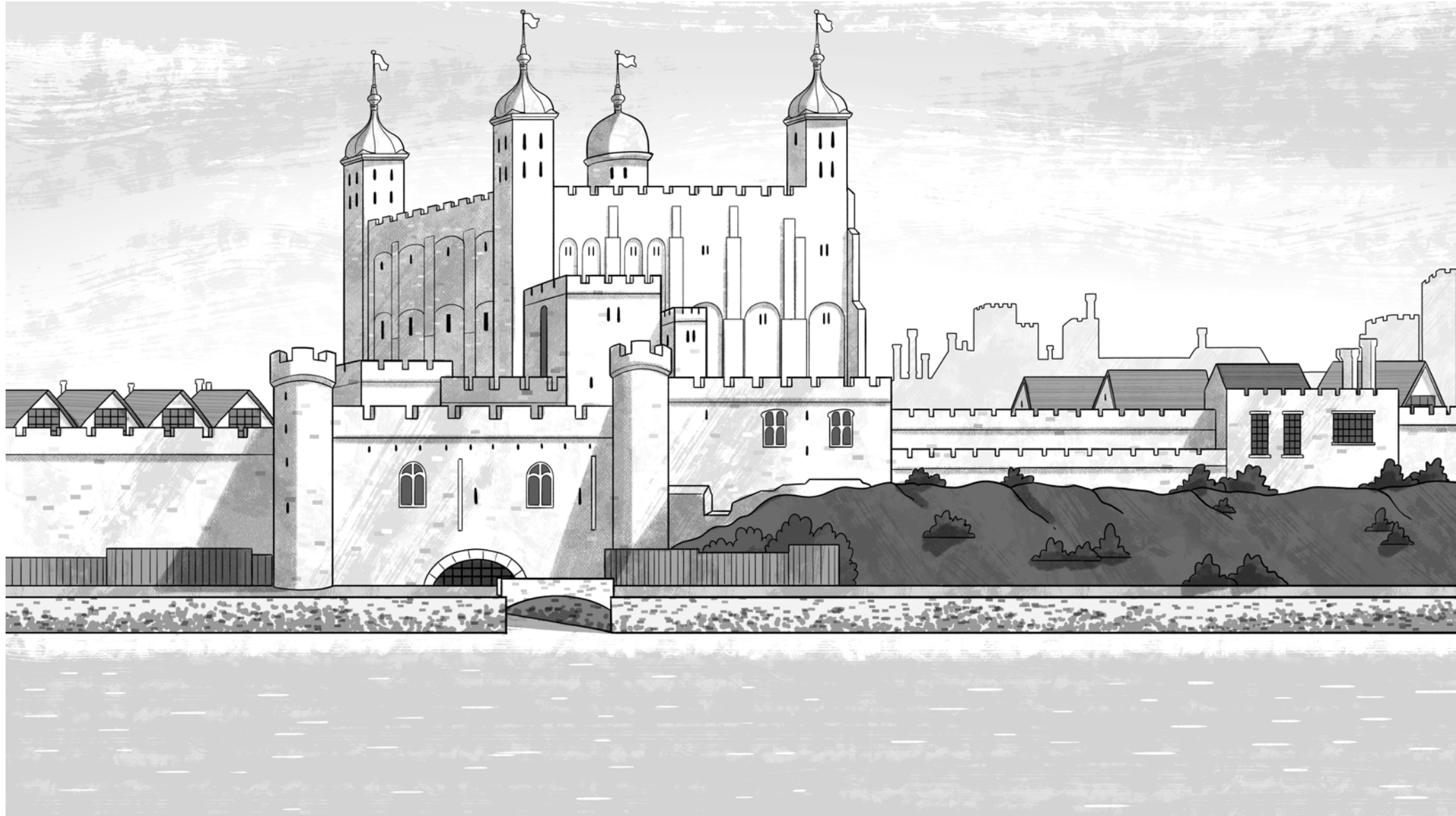
Materials: one stick per character, glue and scissors



Cut out to use
(just add stick!)

The Tower of London

Colour and label



Write your own remembrance poem

What would you like to remember?

Remember, remember...
The fifth of November,
Gunpowder, treason,
And plot.
I see no reason,
Why gunpowder treason,
Ever should be,
Forgot.

My poem
