**Barrel**

“Remember, remember the 5th November:

Gunpowder, treason and plot.

There is no reason why gunpowder treason

Should ever be forgot!”

Précis of Gunpowder Plot

**Suit of Armour**

Suits of armour conjure up knights of old, but did you know there were some famous women who wore armour? Joan of Arc, also known as the ‘Maid of Orléans’, is a French heroine for her actions during the Hundred Years War. She was later considered a martyr and was made a saint in 1920. Elizabeth I was also seen in armour at Tilbury, when she was encouraging her troops who were about to fight the Spanish Armada. You can see a copy of the speech here: <http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item102878.html>

**Halberd**

This weapon is known as a halberd. It is a two-handed weapon that was used in the 14th and 15th centuries and is a combination of a spear and a battle axe.

**Mace**

There are different definitions of mace.

1. In the game, it is a weapon that is a form of heavy club with a spiky head.
2. A ceremonial mace is a highly decorated staff of wood or metal used in civic ceremonies to represent an official’s authority. Westminster, many universities and some town councils are examples of institutions that have a mace.
3. Mace is also the husk of the spice nutmeg and is used in cooking.
4. It is used as a synonym for pepper spray, used as a deterrent against attack. It is based on a brand name, although the original product was a form of tear gas rather than pepper spray.

**Arrows**

Box 1

A fletcher made arrows. This is because he attached ***fletching*** or feathers to the arrow shaft. Traditionally, these feathers came from hens and cocks. Each fletch (most arrows had three or four) would be cut to shape. A good arrow was one that had well-matched fletching as it would be more likely to fly ‘true’ to the target.

Box 2

The person who made arrows was called a fletcher. Over time John ‘the fletcher’ would become simply John Fletcher. There are many other jobs that are now common English surnames:

***Smith*** – most common, as there were lots of different types of smith;

***Cooper*** – made barrels

***Archer*** – the bowman (also used as a surname) who would use the arrows

***Farrier*** – a type of blacksmith who specialises in shoeing horses – he would usually go to the horse, where a normal blacksmith would stay at his forge

***Farmer*** – someone who would grow crops or tend animals to feed the population

***Butcher*** – a person who would cut up the animals and sell the parts (e.g. chops, steak etc.)

***Baker*** – someone who made bread

***Miller*** – a person who ground the corn to make the bread the baker would use

***Brewer*** – someone who would brew beer

***Cook*** – named for the job at the lord’s manor

***Carpenter*** – a person who would work with wood, making tools, furniture or parts of a building ***Joiner*** – a similar type of craftsman to a carpenter

Can you think of others?

**Bow**

There are different types of bows, depending on when they were made and where.

***Longbow*** – a tall bow that is roughly the size of the archer using it. The English Longbow was used in Mediaeval times to great success. <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/The-Longbow/>

***Crossbow*** – the earliest crossbows were used in ancient China

***Compound bow*****–** Mongol warriors

**Shield**

Charles V

Heraldry

Garter

**Axe**

Box 1

Most axes had a single blade. Double-headed axes

<https://www.gransforsbruk.com/en/axe-knowledge/the-history-of-the-axe/>

Box 2

Parts of the axe

1. The eye
2. The blade or cutting edge
3. Axeblade or bit
4. This lip or lug is a way of securing the axe head to the handle
5. Handle
6. The knob at the end is to stop the axe slipping out of the user’s hands
7. Poll or butt
8. Axe head

**Sword**

Most swords have four main parts: ***blade***, ***guard***, ***hilt*** and ***pommel***.

The ***blade*** can be subdivided into different areas. The sharp bit is the ***edge*** – some swords have a single sharp edge while others (e.g. claymore) are sharpened on both sides. The majority of swords taper to a ***tip***, although some are straight until the very tip. Some swords are straight, while others (e.g. sabre, cutlass, scimitar, kukri) are curved. The ***back*** is the part of the blade opposite the ***edge*** – a two-edged sword won’t have a back. The ***flat*** is the side of the blade while the***fuller*** (sometimes called a ***gutter*** or ***blood groove***) runs down the length of it. Some heavier swords might have a ***ricasso***, where the blade is unsharpened just before the guard (so the swordsman could use a second hand, if need be). The tang is the part of the blade that is covered by the ***hilt*** (and sometimes goes as far as the ***pommel***).

***Guard***s are there, not unsurprisingly, to protect the hand. There are many designs of guards from a basic crossbar to a full ‘basket’.

The ***hilt*** is for holding the sword (the handle), while the ***pommel*** is at the end of the hilt is a heavy weight used to balance the sword to make it easier to hold. It also stops your hand sliding off!

**Torch**

Box 1

*“That’s gunpowder you fool! No naked flames!”*

Box 2

It’s very easy to take light for granted these days. We simply flip a switch and electricity provides an instant light source. It can vary from low, atmospheric mood lighting to very powerful spotlights for stage and stadiums. However, before we had ready access to electricity, we had to generate light in other ways. This would entail burning some kind of natural product. Although ‘flaming torches’ did exist, they would not have been the major light source, which is much more likely to have been candles or lanterns. Candles could be made of beeswax or tallow (rendered animal fat). Interestingly, tallow is one of the base ingredients in the new UK banknotes!

Box 3

Torches are often used as a symbol. Think of the Statue of Liberty holding her torch aloft (‘Liberty enlightening the world’) or the Olympic torch. The Olympic torch relay and the flame that burns throughout the games represents the sacred flame in Hera’s temple in Olympia, that was kept alight be a priestess. You can read more about the design of the London 2012 Olympic torch here: <https://barberosgerby.com/projects/view/torch/>

**Cobwebs**

Box 1

Many people are afraid of spiders – it even has a proper name: arachnophobia. What you might not know, though, is that cobwebs had medicinal uses. They were used on wounds to reduce bleeding and promote healing. Like many old wives’ remedies, there’s a scientific reason for its success – cobwebs are rich in vitamin K, which helps blood clot.

Box 2

*“Spiders! I hate spiders!”*