

Bonfire Night: History and Traditions

Learning objective: To understand the historical origins of Bonfire Night and identify the traditions associated with 5th November in the United Kingdom.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of the Gunpowder Plot and modern Bonfire Night traditions to provide your answers.

Bonfire Night, also known as Guy Fawkes Night, is a British tradition held on the 5th of November each year. It marks the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, when a group of men attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Today, people celebrate by lighting bonfires, setting off fireworks, and eating traditional treats like toffee apples and parkin. It is a time for communities to gather together while remembering a significant moment in British history.

Word bank: Guy Fawkes · Parliament · 1605 · Gunpowder Plot · fireworks · tradition · commemoration · King James I

1. Identify the year that the Gunpowder Plot took place and explain what the plotters were trying to achieve. (2 marks)

2. Why do people light bonfires on the 5th of November? Connect this to the history of the event. (2 marks)

3. Max the monkey is looking at the history of this event. If the event happened in 1605, calculate how many years ago it took place. (Assume the current year is 2024). (1 mark)

4. List two traditional foods or activities that people often enjoy during Bonfire Night celebrations. (2 marks)

5. Nova the owl wants to know why we still remember this event today. Explain why it is important to learn about historical events like the Gunpowder Plot. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a safe Bonfire Night celebration. Include a bonfire, colourful fireworks in the night sky, and people enjoying the event from a safe distance.



Extension challenge: Research the 'Guy Fawkes' rhyme. Write your own four-line poem about the importance of staying safe around bonfires and fireworks.