

Bonfire Night: A Year 4 Literacy Challenge

Learning objective: To develop vocabulary, understanding of historical context, and persuasive writing skills related to Bonfire Night.

Use these flashcards to explore the terminology and descriptive language associated with Bonfire Night. For the greater depth tasks, use your best handwriting and focus on using powerful adjectives and emotive language.

Define 'Gunpowder Plot'

A failed conspiracy in 1605 to blow up the Houses of Parliament and the King.

What is an 'effigy'?

A model or dummy of a person, often representing Guy Fawkes, burned on a bonfire.

What does 'treason' mean?

The crime of betraying one's country or attempting to harm the sovereign.

Name three sensory adjectives to describe fireworks.

E.g., thunderous, kaleidoscopic, dazzling, shimmering, explosive.

Explain the significance of the 5th of November.

It commemorates the night the Gunpowder Plot was discovered, preventing the destruction of Parliament.

What is a 'spectacular' display?

An event that is visually striking, impressive, and captures everyone's attention.

What does it mean to 'ignite' a firework?

To set something on fire or cause it to start burning.

Explain why the atmosphere on Bonfire Night is often described as 'crisp'.

Because it occurs in early November when the air is cold, dry, and clear.

Justify why firework safety is essential during public displays.

Fireworks contain chemical explosives and heat; safety protocols prevent injury and ensure the public remains at a distance.

Compare and contrast a modern firework display with a bonfire from the 17th century.

Modern displays use sophisticated pyrotechnics and safety zones; 17th-century bonfires were simpler, communal fires used to celebrate the survival of the King.

What might happen if the Plotters had succeeded in 1605?

The political structure of the country would have collapsed, leading to chaos and a major change in leadership.

If a box of sparklers costs £2.50, how much change would you get from a £10 note?

£7.50.