

A Spark of History: Bonfire Night

Learning objective: To use descriptive language and formal tone to recount the historical significance of 5th November, and to apply vocabulary related to Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot.

Read each question carefully. Use the provided word bank to help you construct your answers. Ensure your writing is clear and uses appropriate Year 5 punctuation.

Bonfire Night, observed on the 5th November, is a significant date in British history. It marks the failed attempt of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605, when a group of conspirators aimed to destroy the Houses of Parliament. Today, we celebrate the safety of the monarch and the government with displays of light and warmth.

Word bank: Gunpowder Plot · Parliament · treason · conspirators · effigy · commemoration · traditional · catastrophe

1. Using your own words, explain why the 5th of November is a significant date in British history. Mention the goal of the Gunpowder Plot. (2 marks)

2. Identify two adjectives from the word bank that could describe the atmosphere of a traditional Bonfire Night celebration. (2 marks)

3. Max the monkey is writing a report on history. Write a sentence explaining the meaning of the word 'treason' in the context of the 1605 plot. (2 marks)

4. Why do you think people choose to light bonfires and set off fireworks on this night? Consider the historical theme of 'light overcoming darkness'. (3 marks)

5. Rewrite this sentence to make it more formal: 'The guys tried to blow up the big government building in London.' (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene inspired by a Bonfire Night display. Zara the zebra is watching the sky; use patterns in the fireworks to show her artistic perspective.



Extension challenge: Research a 'Guy' effigy. Write a short, persuasive paragraph explaining whether you think this tradition is still relevant in modern society, or if we should find new ways to mark the date.