

A Spark in the Night: The Story of Bonfire Night

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by identifying, interpreting, and evaluating information about the history and traditions of Bonfire Night.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences. Refer back to the text to support your answers.

Every year on the 5th of November, the night sky across the United Kingdom is filled with vibrant colours and loud bangs. This tradition, known as Bonfire Night or Guy Fawkes Night, dates back to 1605. It marks the failure of the Gunpowder Plot, a secret plan to destroy the Houses of Parliament. Guy Fawkes and his companions intended to light explosives underneath the building to change the government, but the plot was discovered before they could succeed. Today, we light bonfires and set off fireworks to represent the danger that was narrowly avoided. In many towns, communities gather together to watch spectacular displays, often eating warm treats like toffee apples. While the night is full of excitement, it is vital to remember fire safety. Whether you are watching a professional display or simply enjoying the crisp autumn air, the night serves as a historic reminder of a time when the country's future hung in the balance. It has transformed from a serious historical event into a beloved community celebration enjoyed by families everywhere.

Word bank: Gunpowder · Plot · Tradition · Commemorate · Parliament · Safety · Fireworks

1. What is the specific date that Bonfire Night is celebrated every year? (1 mark)

2. What were the members of the Gunpowder Plot planning to do to the Houses of Parliament? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think people choose to light bonfires today, even though the event happened over 400 years ago? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why is it important for people to be careful during fireworks displays? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Bonfire Night is an important tradition for the UK to keep? Give a reason for your opinion. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Nova the owl watching a safe, colourful fireworks display over a park. Include a bright bonfire and a clear night sky.



Extension challenge: Max the monkey wants to calculate the cost of a community fireworks display. If one ticket costs £7.50 and he sells 100 tickets, how much money will he raise for the local fireworks fund?