

Bonfire Night: History and Reflection

Learning objective: To understand the historical origins of Bonfire Night and reflect on the importance of peace, safety, and community in British society.

Read each question carefully and provide your answers in the spaces provided. Ensure your responses are written in full sentences where requested.

On the 5th of November, many people across the United Kingdom celebrate Bonfire Night. This tradition marks the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, when a group of people attempted to destroy the Houses of Parliament. Today, the event is marked by lighting bonfires and setting off fireworks to remember the failed plot and the safety of the nation. It is also a time for communities to gather together to enjoy the spectacle.

Word bank: Guy Fawkes · Gunpowder Plot · Parliament · 1605 · safety · tradition · commemoration · community

1. Identify the historical event that Bonfire Night commemorates. (1 mark)

2. In which year did the Gunpowder Plot take place? (1 mark)

3. Explain why people light bonfires and fireworks on this night. How has the meaning of this night changed since 1605? (3 marks)

4. Max the monkey is planning a bonfire party. He has £15.00. If he spends £8.50 on food and £4.25 on sparklers, how much money does he have left? Show your working out. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast how people celebrate Bonfire Night today with how it might have been celebrated in the past. Consider the safety rules we have now. (4 marks)

6. Justify why it is important for communities to follow firework safety codes during public displays. (3 marks)

7. Nova the owl is thinking about the night sky. Write a short poem or a descriptive paragraph (at least 5 sentences) about the sights and sounds of a Bonfire Night display. Describe the colours, the shapes, and the feelings of the people watching. (5 marks)

8. What might happen if communities stopped celebrating historical anniversaries like Bonfire Night? Explain your reasoning. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of a community bonfire display. Include safety features, such as a barrier or a bucket of water, and show how the colours of the fireworks reflect in the night sky.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: Research another historical event that is celebrated annually in the UK. Create a comparison chart showing how that event is similar to or different from Bonfire Night regarding its purpose and how it is celebrated.