

The History and Science of Bonfire Night

Light up your knowledge: Explore the sparks and stories of the Fifth of November!

- In 1605, a group of people plotted to challenge the government by attempting to damage the Houses of Parliament in London.
- Bonfire Night is traditionally celebrated on the 5th of November each year to commemorate the failure of this historical plot.
- Firework displays involve the science of combustion, where fuel reacts rapidly with oxygen to release energy as heat, light, and sound.
- Max the monkey notes that the path a firework takes through the air is called a trajectory, which can be calculated using maths and physics.
- Safety is essential; always remember the Firework Code: stand well back, never return to a lit firework, and keep pets indoors.

Did you know? Did you know? The vibrant colours in fireworks are created by adding different metal salts to the gunpowder. For example, strontium produces a deep red colour, while copper creates a brilliant blue. It is a stunning display of chemistry in the night sky!

Key vocabulary: Gunpowder Plot · Parliament · Commemoration · Combustion · Trajectory · Chemical reaction