

Bonfire Night: History and Reflection

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of Bonfire Night and reflect on why communities hold commemorative events.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 and the traditions of 5th November to provide detailed, thoughtful answers.

Bonfire Night, observed on the 5th of November, marks the anniversary of the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605. A group, including Guy Fawkes, attempted to destroy the Houses of Parliament. Today, we look at the historical context of this event and discuss why we still mark this date with bonfires and fireworks, considering both the historical narrative and modern community safety.

Word bank: Guy Fawkes · Parliament · commemoration · tradition · safety · conspiracy · rebellion · community

1. Explain why the events of 1605 are still remembered by the public over 400 years later. Why is this considered an important part of British history? (2 marks)

2. Max the monkey is looking at the history of the Gunpowder Plot as a 'puzzle'. If the plot had succeeded, how might the course of British history have changed? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast how people celebrated Bonfire Night in the 17th century versus how we celebrate it today. What are the key differences? (2 marks)

4. Nova the owl is concerned about safety. Suggest three rules that a local community group should follow to ensure a bonfire event is safe for everyone. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if a community decided to stop celebrating Bonfire Night? Discuss whether the loss of such traditions affects our connection to the past. (3 marks)

6. If a box of fireworks costs £12.50 and a bag of toffee apples for the community stall costs £8.75, how much would it cost for the community group to buy two boxes of fireworks and one bag of toffee apples? Show your working. (3 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 light from the fire creates patterns in the night sky.



Extension challenge: Write a short, persuasive poem from the perspective of a historian explaining to a younger child why we should learn about difficult events from the past rather than forgetting them.