

Bonfire Night: History and Reflection

Learning objective: To understand the historical origins of Bonfire Night and reflect on why it is commemorated in the UK today.

Read each question carefully. Ensure your answers are clear and use your knowledge of the Gunpowder Plot and the importance of community safety.

On the 5th of November, many people in the United Kingdom mark Bonfire Night. This tradition dates back to 1605, when a group of men attempted to destroy the Houses of Parliament. Today, the event is celebrated with fireworks, bonfires, and toffee apples. While it began as a way to remember the failure of the Gunpowder Plot, it has evolved into a community event focused on light, warmth, and keeping safe during the dark winter months.

Word bank: Parliament · Guy Fawkes · treason · commemoration · tradition · safety · history · monarch

1. Identify the year in which the Gunpowder Plot took place. (1 mark)

2. Explain why the group of men wanted to target the Houses of Parliament in 1605. (2 marks)

3. Max the monkey is calculating the cost of a fireworks display. If a sparkler pack costs £3.50 and a bag of toffee apples costs £4.25, how much do they cost altogether? (2 marks)

4. Why do you think Bonfire Night is still celebrated today, over 400 years later? (3 marks)

5. Nova the owl is teaching us about safety. List three important rules people should follow to stay safe during a firework display. (3 marks)

6. Compare how Bonfire Night was observed in the 17th century versus how it is celebrated in modern times. What has changed and what has stayed the same? (4 marks)

7. Imagine you are a reporter writing for a local newspaper. Write an article (approx. 100 words) describing the importance of community spirit during the 5th of November celebrations. Include why it is important to respect the history of the event while ensuring everyone feels included and safe. (10 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a community bonfire. Ensure you include at least two safety features, such as a barrier or a bucket of water, as recommended by Bea the honeybee.



Extension challenge: Total: /25