

Bonfire Night: A Historical Fact-File

Learning objective: To understand the origins and customs of Bonfire Night and reflect on the historical significance of the Gunpowder Plot.

Use this fact-file to organise what you have learned about the events of 1605. Read your history textbooks or classroom resources carefully to complete each section. Max the monkey is helping us with our investigation, so make sure your facts are as accurate as a maths calculation!

Word bank: Guy Fawkes · Parliament · treason · conspiracy · tradition · commemoration · Gunpowder Plot · seventeenth century

1. The Historical Context: Briefly explain why the group of conspirators wanted to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605. (2 marks)

2. The Discovery: Describe how the plot was uncovered and what happened to the conspirators when they were caught. (2 marks)

3. Reflecting on Traditions: Why do we still celebrate Bonfire Night today? Consider the purpose of fireworks and bonfires. (2 marks)

4. Safety First: List three important safety rules that people should follow when attending a firework display. (3 marks)

5. Personal Perspective: If you were living in London in 1605, how might you have reacted to the news of the failed plot? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1605. Write a short, formal newspaper headline and the first paragraph of a report explaining the 'Gunpowder Plot' to the public.