

The History and Science of Bonfire Night

Join Leo the Lion and Nova the Owl for a spark-tacular celebration of history and science!

- Bonfire Night is held on 5th November each year to commemorate the failure of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605, where a group attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament.
- The night is traditionally celebrated with large bonfires, which were once used as a signal to show that the government had stayed safe.
- Firework displays are a staple of the evening, using controlled explosions to create patterns of light and sound in the night sky.
- Nova the Owl reminds us that fireworks rely on combustion, a chemical reaction that releases energy in the form of heat, light, and sound.
- Safety is essential; always stand well back from the bonfire and ensure sparklers are held at arm's length by an adult.

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 all down to chemistry!

Key vocabulary: Gunpowder · Parliament · Combustion · Trajectory · Tradition · Atmosphere