

The History and Science of Bonfire Night

Light up your learning: Discover the story behind the sparks!

- In 1605, a group of conspirators attempted to undermine the British government by planning to explode the Houses of Parliament.
- Guy Fawkes was discovered guarding barrels of gunpowder in the undercroft, leading to the failure of the plot.
- Bonfire Night serves as an annual commemoration of the safety of the King and the preservation of Parliament.
- Fireworks operate through rapid combustion, where stored chemical energy is released as heat, light, and sound.
- The traditional rhyme 'Remember, remember the fifth of November' has been passed down through generations to mark this historical event.

Did you know? Did you know? The vibrant colours in fireworks are created by adding specific metal salts to the chemical mixture. For instance, strontium salts produce a brilliant red, while copper salts create a stunning blue. It is chemistry in action in the night sky!

Key vocabulary: Gunpowder Plot · Parliament · Commemoration · Combustion · Pyrotechnics · Treason · Trajectory