

The Spark of History: A Bonfire Night Quiz

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills and historical understanding of the origins and traditions of Bonfire Night in the UK.

Read the historical context provided by Ellie the Elephant and use your knowledge of literacy and history to answer the questions below. Aim for clear, concise, and descriptive language.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Guy Fawkes, 4.A, 5.B, 6.False, 7.To protect the King and Parliament, 8.A, 9.True, 10.A bonfire is built to represent the burning of an effigy and to mark the failure of the plot.

Word bank: Gunpowder · Parliament · Treason · Effigy · Commemorate · Conspiracy · Centuries · Tradition

1. 1. In 1605, a group of plotters attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament. What was the name of this historical event? A) The Great Fire, B) The London Uprising, C) The Gunpowder Plot*, D) The King's Rebellion. (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Bonfire Night is celebrated on the 5th of November every year. (1 mark)

3. 3. Which specific individual was discovered guarding the explosives in the cellars beneath the House of Lords? (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the primary purpose of a 'Guy' (an effigy) placed on top of a bonfire? A) To represent the plotters*, B) To provide extra fuel, C) To scare away animals, D) To signal the end of the night. (1 mark)

5. 5. Which word best describes the act of plotting secretly to overthrow the government? A) Celebration, B) Treason*, C) Ceremony, D) Patriotism. (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: The Gunpowder Plot was successful and changed the history of the monarchy forever. (1 mark)

7. 7. Explain why the King's guards searched the cellars beneath the Houses of Parliament in 1605. (1 mark)

8. 8. Which of these items is traditionally associated with the food eaten on Bonfire Night? A) Toffee apples*, B) Hot cross buns, C) Christmas pudding, D) Pancakes. (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: Fireworks are used on Bonfire Night to represent the explosives that were never used. (1 mark)

10. 10. Describe the significance of the bonfire in the context of the 5th of November celebrations. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene of a 17th-century street during the first celebration of the event, focusing on the contrast between the dark night sky and the bright, flickering orange glow of the bonfire.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Justify why we continue to 'commemorate' a failed plot after more than 400 years. 2. Compare and contrast how Bonfire Night is celebrated today versus how it might have been celebrated in the 17th century. 3. What might happen if the plotters had succeeded; how would the course of British history have shifted? 4. Write a short, poetic stanza from the perspective of an observer in 1605 witnessing the discovery. 5. If you were organising a modern Bonfire Night event, create a budget plan: if tickets cost £5.50 and you sell 120, and the fireworks cost £450.00, how much profit will you make? 6. Explain why 'treason' is considered such a significant crime in the context of a nation's history.