

The History and Science of Bonfire Night

Light up your knowledge: Explore the sparks, history, and safety of the fifth of November!

- The events of 1605 involved a group attempting to undermine the government, leading to the tradition of lighting bonfires across the United Kingdom.
- Fireworks rely on rapid combustion, where a chemical reaction releases energy in the form of light, heat, and sound.
- The height and path of a firework rocket are determined by its trajectory, which is influenced by gravity and the force of the initial launch.
- Safety is paramount; the Fireworks Code encourages keeping a safe distance and ensuring all displays are managed by responsible adults.
- Historically, the failure of the Gunpowder Plot is celebrated annually to commemorate the protection of the Houses of Parliament.

Did you know? Did you know? The vibrant colours in fireworks are created by metal salts! For example, strontium salts produce a deep red, while copper salts create a brilliant blue. It is a spectacular demonstration of chemistry in the night sky.

Key vocabulary: Gunpowder Plot · Parliament · Combustion · Trajectory · Pyrotechnics · Chemical reaction · Treason · Oxidation