

Max and Leo's Bonfire Night Investigation

Learning objective: To analyse the historical significance of the Gunpowder Plot and evaluate the safety and social implications of modern Bonfire Night celebrations.

Use this fact-file template to explore the origins of Bonfire Night. Max the monkey needs your help to calculate the costs of a community event, while Leo the lion wants to hear your reflections on the traditions we observe today. Write clearly and use your most descriptive vocabulary.

Word bank: Guy Fawkes · Parliament · treason · commemoration · pyrotechnics · consequences · tradition · safety · perspective

1. Historical Context: Explain why the events of 1605 led to the annual tradition we call Bonfire Night. What was the motive behind the plot? (3 marks)

2. Comparing Perspectives: Compare and contrast how people in 1605 might have felt about the failed plot versus how we view the celebration today. Justify your answer. (4 marks)

3. Mathematical Challenge: If a local display costs £450.00 for fireworks and £125.50 for refreshments, and the tickets cost £5.00 each, calculate how many tickets must be sold to cover the costs. (3 marks)

4. Safety Analysis: Explain why it is vital to follow the 'Firework Code' during celebrations. What might happen if these safety guidelines were ignored? (3 marks)

5. Creative Evaluation: If you were organising a modern-day Bonfire Night, suggest one way to make the event more environmentally friendly and explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

6. Reflective Poetry: Compose a short, four-line poem in the style of Leo the lion about the sights and sounds of the night sky. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Research the 'Gunpowder Plot' further. Write a persuasive argument from the perspective of someone living in 17th-century London, justifying why they believe the state should or should not continue to mark this day with public bonfires.