The Bonfire Night Challenge with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To analyse and understand the historical context, vocabulary, and descriptive techniques associated with Bonfire Night (Guy Fawkes Night).

Read the historical context provided below, then test your knowledge! Max the monkey has provided a few tricky maths-style logic puzzles, while Pip the caterpillar wants to see your descriptive flair.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.Parliament, 5.Effigy, 6.1605, 7.A, 8.B, 9.Gunpowder Plot, 10.True.
Teacher Note: Ensure pupils use formal tone for creative writing tasks.

Word bank: Parliament · Gunpowder · Treason · Effigy · Commemoration · Pyrotechnics · Conspiracy · Atmospheric

1. 1. What is the primary purpose of the annual commemoration on the 5th of November? A) To celebrate the start of winter B) To honour the King's birthday C) To mark the failure of the Gunpowder Plot* D) To launch the new season of fireworks (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Guy Fawkes was the only individual involved in the conspiracy to blow up the Houses of Parliament. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: The term 'guy' (an effigy burned on a bonfire) is derived directly from the name of Guy Fawkes. (1 mark)

4. 4. Fill in the blank: The target of the 1605 plot was the _____ building in London. (1 mark)

5. 5. What do we call the model of a person that is traditionally placed on top of a bonfire? (1 mark)

6. 6. In which year did the historic events of the Gunpowder Plot take place? (1 mark)

7. 7. Which adjective best describes the night sky during a fireworks display? A) Luminescent* B) Murky C) Monochromatic D) Stationary (1 mark)

8. 8. Max has 5 boxes of sparklers. Each box costs £3.50. If he sells them to his friends for a total of £20.00, how much profit does he make? A) £1.50 B) £2.50* C) £3.00 D) £5.00 (1 mark)

9. 9. What is the formal historical name given to the failed attempt to destroy the House of Lords? (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: Modern pyrotechnics are designed to produce specific colours using various metal salts. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene of a chilly November evening featuring Pip the caterpillar wearing a tiny woolly scarf, watching a vibrant, multi-coloured firework display over a silhouetted landscape.

Extension challenge: 1. Explain why historical events like the Gunpowder Plot are still commemorated over 400 years later. 2. Compare and contrast the safety measures required for a public bonfire display versus a small garden gathering. 3. Justify your answer: Is the tradition of burning an effigy still relevant in modern society? 4. What might happen if the plot had succeeded in 1605? 5. Write a short, atmospheric paragraph (50-70 words) describing the sensory experience of Bonfire Night using at least three words from the word bank. 6. If a display organiser has a budget of £500, and rockets cost £12 each, calculate the maximum number of rockets they can purchase and how much change will remain.