Bonfire Night Historical Fact-File

Learning objective: To understand the origins and historical context of Bonfire Night in the UK, and to evaluate its significance.

Use this fact-file to organise your research on Bonfire Night. Use your best handwriting and provide detailed, thoughtful answers. Ellie the elephant suggests using your memory skills to recall why we celebrate this event every year.

Word bank: Gunpowder Plot · Guy Fawkes · Parliament · 1605 · tradition · commemorate · celebration · conspiracy · consequences

1. The Historical Event: Explain what happened on the 5th of November in 1605. Who was involved and what was their main objective? (3 marks)

2. The Motivation: Why did the group involved in the Gunpowder Plot want to change the government? What might have happened if their plan had been successful? (4 marks)

3. Comparing Traditions: How do people celebrate Bonfire Night today compared to how it might have been remembered in the past? Justify why these traditions have changed over time. (4 marks)

4. Personal Perspective: If you were in charge of planning a community celebration, would you include fireworks? Explain your reasoning using evidence about safety or history. (3 marks)

5. The Cost of Celebration: Max is buying fireworks for a display. If a pack of sparklers costs £3.50 and a Catherine wheel costs £2.75, how much change would Max get from a £10 note? Show your working out. (3 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: Why do you think it is important for a country to remember historical events, even those that involve conflict or failed plots? (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a poster for a historical museum exhibit about the Gunpowder Plot. Include a catchy title, a short 'Did you know?' fact, and a persuasive sentence explaining why visitors should come to learn about this period in history.