

The Spark of History: A Bonfire Night Quiz

Learning objective: To understand the historical and cultural significance of Bonfire Night in the UK, exploring the events of 1605 and the traditional customs associated with the commemoration.

Read the historical context provided below, then answer the questions. Max the monkey has helped write some of these, so keep an eye out for his tricky maths and logic challenges!

In 1605, a group of men, including Guy Fawkes, plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament. They wanted to destroy the government and the King. This became known as the Gunpowder Plot. The plan was discovered, and the conspirators were arrested. Since then, the UK has marked November 5th with bonfires and fireworks to commemorate the failure of this treasonous plot. People often burn an effigy, known as a 'Guy', on the bonfire.

Word bank: Gunpowder Plot · Guy Fawkes · Parliament · Treason · Commemoration · Effigy · Conspirators · Catholics

1. In what year did the Gunpowder Plot take place? A) 1506 B) 1605* C) 1705 D) 1650 (1 mark)

2. True or False: The goal of the conspirators was to protect the King. (1 mark)

3. What is the name of the dummy figure often placed on top of a bonfire? (1 word answer) (1 mark)

4. Which historical building were the conspirators planning to destroy? A) The Tower of London B) Buckingham Palace C) The Houses of Parliament* D) Westminster Abbey (1 mark)

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

6. If a box of 12 sparklers costs £4.80, what is the cost of a single sparkler? (Show your calculation) (1 mark)

7. What was the main purpose of the Gunpowder Plot? A) To celebrate the King B) To change the religion of the country C) To overthrow the government* D) To start a new colony (1 mark)

8. Name the specific historical figure most famously associated with the plot who was found guarding the gunpowder. (1 mark)

9. Why do we use the word 'treason' to describe the actions of the conspirators? A) Because it was a crime against the Crown* B) Because they stole gold C) Because they were foreigners D) Because they left the country (1 mark)

10. What is the primary reason we still mark this event today? (1 word answer) (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene of a traditional 5th of November bonfire. Include a detailed 'Guy' figure on top and show how the light from the fire creates shadows and patterns in the night sky.



Extension challenge: Explain why the perception of Guy Fawkes has changed from a dangerous traitor in 1605 to a figure often represented in modern culture. Compare and contrast how the commemoration of this event might differ today compared to the 17th century. What might happen if the plot had been successful? Justify your answer by considering the political instability that would have followed the destruction of Parliament.