Bonfire Night Vocabulary and Facts

Learning objective: To develop vocabulary and historical understanding of the origins and traditions of Bonfire Night in the UK.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge about Bonfire Night. Read the term or question on the left, then check your answer on the right. Discuss the 'Greater Depth' questions with a partner to explore the history behind the celebration.

Who was Guy Fawkes?

A historical figure involved in the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, which aimed to blow up the Houses of Parliament.

What is a 'firework display'?

A public event where colourful pyrotechnics are set off in the sky to create light and sound patterns.

What are traditional Bonfire Night treats?

Foods often eaten at this time include toffee apples, parkin (a ginger cake), and jacket potatoes cooked in foil.

Why do we light bonfires on 5th November?

To commemorate the failure of the plot to destroy Parliament and to mark the night the King survived.

What is a 'sparkler'?

A handheld wire coated in a chemical mixture that creates bright, glittering light when lit safely.

Define the word 'commemorate'.

To remember and show respect for an important event from the past.

What does the word 'treason' mean?

The crime of trying to betray or harm one's country or government.

Explain why safety is important on Bonfire Night.

Because fireworks and bonfires involve fire and heat, we must follow strict safety rules to prevent injury and accidents.

Compare and contrast a bonfire to a firework.

A bonfire is a large, stationary pile of wood that burns slowly; a firework is a small, portable device that launches into the sky to explode with colour.

Justify why we still celebrate this night over 400 years later.

It has become a long-standing British tradition and a way to gather communities together during the autumn season.

What might happen if we did not have safety rules for fireworks?

Without rules, people could get hurt, fires could start in the wrong places, and animals might become frightened by the loud noises.

Explain why Nova the owl might find Bonfire Night a challenging time.

As a nocturnal creature, Nova relies on darkness to hunt, and the bright flashes and loud bangs of fireworks might confuse her or disrupt her natural environment.