

A Spark in the Night: The History of Bonfire Night

Learning objective: To develop retrieval and inference skills while understanding the historical significance of Guy Fawkes Night.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Think deeply about how historical events shape our traditions today.

Every year on the 5th of November, the night sky across Britain sparkles with vibrant fireworks. This tradition, known as Bonfire Night, marks a historical event from 1605. A group of men, including a man named Guy Fawkes, plotted to destroy the Houses of Parliament in London. They wanted to change the government, but their plan was discovered just in time. To celebrate the King's safety, people lit bonfires across the city. Today, our BookFlik friends enjoy this evening safely. Max the monkey loves calculating the cost of a box of sparklers at £4.50, while Nova the owl watches the spectacular patterns of light dancing above the trees. We light bonfires and eat toffee apples to remember how the plot was foiled. It is a time for communities to gather, wrap up in warm scarves, and look at the history behind our bright, crackling celebrations. While the fireworks are beautiful, it is important to remember why we hold this annual event and to always follow firework safety rules to keep everyone protected.

Word bank: tradition · celebration · parliament · treason · commemorate · spectacular

1. In what year did the historical event involving Guy Fawkes take place? (1 mark)

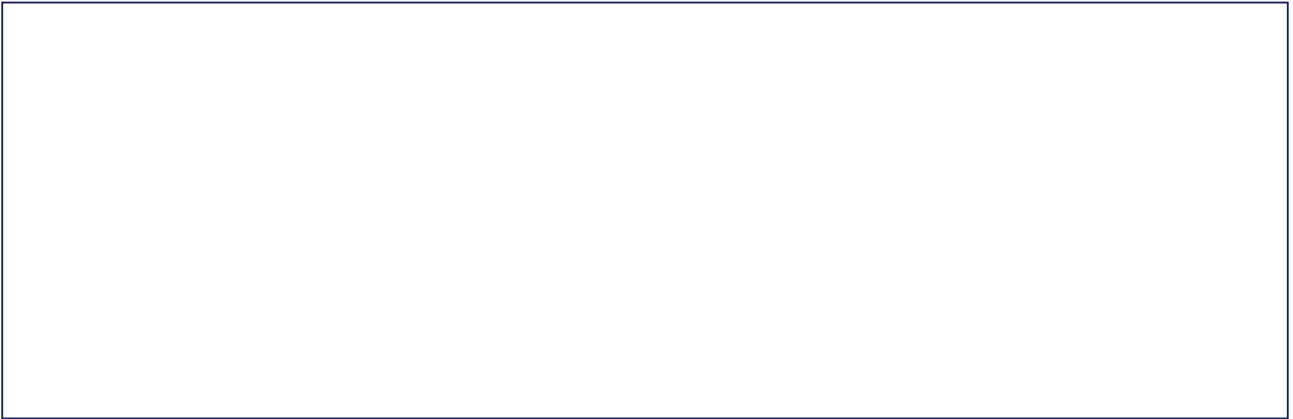
2. According to the text, why do people light bonfires on the 5th of November? (2 marks)

3. Why might the author mention that Nova the owl watches the patterns of light? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'the plot was foiled' tell the reader about the success of Guy Fawkes' plan? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Bonfire Night is a positive or negative tradition? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of our BookFlik friends enjoying a safe Bonfire Night. Include Nova watching the fireworks and Max holding a sparkler.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast how we celebrate Bonfire Night today with how people might have celebrated it in 1605. What might happen if the plot had succeeded? Justify your thoughts with historical reasoning.