Bonfire Night Traditions and History

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of Bonfire Night, the traditions associated with 5th November, and the importance of firework safety.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge and your common sense to answer the questions. For questions requiring explanation, try to use full sentences and rich vocabulary.

Bonfire Night, observed on the 5th of November, marks the anniversary of the failed Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Historically, this event commemorates the time when Guy Fawkes and his associates attempted to destroy the Houses of Parliament. Today, communities gather for bonfires and firework displays to celebrate the safety of the King and the country. It is a time for reflection on history, whilst ensuring we follow strict safety rules to protect ourselves and others from the dangers of fire.

Word bank: Guy Fawkes · Gunpowder Plot · Parliament · commemoration · tradition · safety · sparklers · effigy

1. Explain why we celebrate Bonfire Night on the 5th of November. What historical event are we remembering? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast how people celebrated in 1605 compared to how we celebrate in modern times. What has changed? (2 marks)

3. Max the monkey is worried about fire safety. List three essential rules everyone should follow when using sparklers or attending a bonfire. (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why is it important for us to learn about events from the past, such as the Gunpowder Plot? (2 marks)

5. If you were organising a community firework display, what steps would you take to ensure the local wildlife, such as hedgehogs, remain safe? (2 marks)

6. Imagine a bonfire display costs £5.50 for an adult and £3.25 for a child. If a family of two adults and two children attend, how much is the total cost? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of a safe Bonfire Night celebration. Include at least two fire safety measures you have learned about, such as a bucket of water or a safe distance barrier.

Extension challenge: Write a short, descriptive poem about the sights and sounds of Bonfire Night. Use at least three adjectives to describe the fireworks, and consider the perspective of Nova the owl watching the colourful display from the night sky.