

The History and Science of Bonfire Night

Join Nova the Owl and Max the Monkey as we explore the spark behind the 5th of November!

- In 1605, a group of plotters attempted to destroy the Houses of Parliament in London to change the government of the time.
- The event is remembered annually on the 5th of November, often marked by lighting bonfires and setting off fireworks across the United Kingdom.
- Fireworks rely on a rapid chemical reaction called combustion, which releases energy in the form of heat, light, and sound.
- Max the Monkey reminds us that the path a firework takes through the sky is a perfect example of a trajectory, governed by gravity and the force of the launch.
- Safety is essential; the Firework Code encourages standing well back, wearing gloves when handling sparklers, and keeping pets safely indoors.

Did you know? Did you know? The bright colours you see in fireworks are created by heating different metal salts! For example, strontium salts create deep red flames, while copper salts produce a brilliant blue.

Key vocabulary: Gunpowder Plot · Parliament · Combustion · Trajectory · Chemical reaction · Tradition