Bonfire Night: A Historical Reflection

Learning objective: To understand the historical origins of Bonfire Night and reflect on the themes of loyalty and safety.

Use this fact-file to organise your research on Bonfire Night. Use the word bank to help explain why we celebrate on 5th November and why it is important to stay safe. You can use your school library or an encyclopaedia to find the facts.

Word bank: Guy Fawkes · Parliament · Gunpowder Plot · King James I · treason · commemoration · firework safety · tradition

1. The Historical Context: Explain who was involved in the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 and what their main objective was. (3 marks)

2. The Turning Point: Why did the plot fail, and what was the immediate consequence for those involved? (2 marks)

3. The Tradition: Why do we still commemorate this night centuries later, and how has the way we celebrate changed? (2 marks)

4. Safety First: Max the monkey is planning a party. List three important safety rules he should follow when near a bonfire or fireworks. (3 marks)

5. Personal Reflection: If you were writing a poem like Leo the Lion about this night, what sensory words would you use to describe the atmosphere? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a different historical event that is celebrated in the UK. Create a comparison chart showing how it is similar or different to the traditions of Bonfire Night.