

The History and Science of Bonfire Night

Light up your learning: Join Nova and Leo on a journey through history and sparks!

- **Bonfire Night, or Guy Fawkes Night, is celebrated on the 5th of November each year to commemorate the foiled Gunpowder Plot of 1605.**
- **The plot was an attempt to destroy the Houses of Parliament in London, but the plan was discovered before it could be carried out.**
- **Traditionally, bonfires were built to symbolise the safety of the King and the failure of the plotters to succeed in their scheme.**
- **Fireworks work through a process of rapid combustion, where stored chemical energy is released suddenly as heat, light, and sound.**
- **Safety is essential; always watch displays from a safe distance and remember the Firework Code to keep everyone protected from sparks.**

Did you know? Did you know? The vibrant colours in fireworks are created by adding specific metal salts to the powder. For example, strontium creates deep red hues, while copper produces brilliant blues. When the heat of the explosion hits these elements, they release energy as light, painting the night sky!

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