

The Spark of History: Uncovering Bonfire Night

Ignite your imagination and illuminate the past!

- **Why is it historically significant that the Gunpowder Plot was discovered before it could be executed? Consider the long-term impact on the British monarchy and government.**
- **Explain why the atmosphere in 17th-century London would have been tense and suspicious following the discovery of the conspiracy.**
- **Compare and contrast the way we celebrate Bonfire Night today with how it might have been marked in the years immediately following 1605.**
- **Justify why the 'Gunpowder, Treason and Plot' rhyme has remained a staple of British culture for over four hundred years.**
- **What might happen if the plot had been successful? Evaluate the potential consequences for the religious and political landscape of the time.**

Did you know? Did you know? The tradition of burning an 'effigy' on a bonfire—often called a 'Guy'—is a nod to Guy Fawkes, the man discovered guarding the gunpowder beneath the Houses of Parliament in 1605. While fireworks light up our skies today, they were originally used to represent the explosive danger of the plot that was narrowly averted.

Key vocabulary: treason · parliament · conspiracy · effigy · cathedral · anonymous · suppression · commemoration