Max and Nova’s Bonfire Night Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the historical significance of Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot, and the reasons why we celebrate Bonfire Night in the UK today.

Read the information passage carefully and use it to help Max the monkey and Nova the owl solve these historical puzzles. Answer all 10 questions to earn your sparkler badge!

In 1605, a group of men plotted to destroy the Houses of Parliament in London. They hid barrels of gunpowder in a cellar beneath the building. This plan is known as the Gunpowder Plot. The plot was discovered before it could be carried out, and King James I was kept safe. To celebrate the King's safety, people lit bonfires across the city. Today, we remember this event on the 5th of November with fireworks, bonfires, and sometimes toffee apples. It is a time to reflect on our history and why we value safety and peace in our society.

Word bank: Parliament · Gunpowder · Treason · 1605 · Cellar · Celebration · Bonfire · History

1. In which year did the Gunpowder Plot take place? A) 1506 B) 1605* C) 1905 D) 1650 (1 mark)

2. True or False: The goal of the plotters was to protect the Houses of Parliament. (1 mark)

3. Where exactly were the barrels of gunpowder hidden? (1 mark)

4. Who was the King of England during the Gunpowder Plot? A) King Arthur B) King George C) King James I* D) King Henry (1 mark)

5. What do we call the act of betraying one's country or government? (Clue: It starts with 'T') (1 mark)

6. Why did people first light bonfires in 1605? A) To cook dinner B) To celebrate the King's safety* C) To keep warm in summer D) To signal an invasion (1 mark)

7. True or False: The Gunpowder Plot was successful. (1 mark)

8. On which date do we celebrate Bonfire Night every year? (1 mark)

9. Which of these is a traditional treat often enjoyed on Bonfire Night? A) Pancakes B) Toffee apples* C) Christmas pudding D) Easter eggs (1 mark)

10. What is the main reason we learn about this event in history lessons today? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene of a safe Bonfire Night celebration featuring Nova the owl watching fireworks in the night sky and Max the monkey holding a sparkler carefully.

Extension challenge: Max the monkey wants to host a small party. If he buys 5 bags of toffee apples for £2.00 each and a pack of sparklers for £3.50, how much does he spend in total? Justify your answer. Furthermore, explain why it is important to remember historical events like the Gunpowder Plot, even if they happened hundreds of years ago. What might happen if we chose to forget our history entirely?