

Bonfire Night: History and Traditions Assessment

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of the historical origins of Bonfire Night and the significance of its modern-day traditions.

Read each question carefully and write your answers in the space provided. Use clear sentences for longer responses.

On the 5th of November each year, many people in the UK mark Bonfire Night. This date is linked to the events of 1605, known as the Gunpowder Plot. A group of individuals attempted to destroy the Houses of Parliament in London to change the government of the time. The plot was discovered before it could be carried out, and the King remained safe. Today, families gather around bonfires and watch firework displays to commemorate the failure of the plot. Some people also build a model of a person, known as a 'guy', to place on top of the bonfire.

Word bank: Gunpowder Plot · Guy Fawkes · Parliament · tradition · commemoration · safety · treason · effigy

1. What is the historical event that took place on the 5th of November 1605? (2 marks)

2. Why was the Gunpowder Plot considered an act of treason against the King? (2 marks)

3. Identify two modern-day traditions associated with Bonfire Night. (2 marks)

4. Max the monkey is confused. He asks: 'Why do we still celebrate an event that happened over 400 years ago?' Explain the purpose of commemoration in your own words. (3 marks)

5. Nova the owl is teaching a lesson on firework safety. List three important rules people should follow to stay safe during a firework display. (3 marks)

6. Compare and contrast: How have the reasons for lighting bonfires changed from 1605 to the present day? (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are a reporter living in London in 1605. Write a short diary entry (approx. 100 words) describing the atmosphere in the city after the discovery of the plot. Include how you feel about the news and what you see happening in the streets. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of a safe Bonfire Night celebration, including at least one traditional treat like a toffee apple or parkin cake.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research Task: Find out the current cost of a ticket to a local professional firework display. If a family of four (two adults at £8 each and two children at £5 each) attend, what is the total cost? Show your working out.