

# A Spark in the Night Sky: Exploring Bonfire Night

*Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills through a non-fiction text about the history and traditions of Bonfire Night.*

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences. Remember to use evidence from the text to support your answers.

On the 5th of November each year, many people in the UK gather to celebrate Bonfire Night. This tradition dates back to 1605, when a group of men, including Guy Fawkes, attempted to destroy the Houses of Parliament in London. The plan, famously known as the Gunpowder Plot, was discovered before it could be carried out. King James I remained safe, and citizens lit bonfires across the city to celebrate his survival. Today, we remember this historical event with spectacular firework displays and large, crackling bonfires. Families often enjoy traditional treats like toffee apples or jacket potatoes baked in the embers. While the night is filled with bright colours and loud bangs, it is important to remember safety. Max the monkey reminds us that we must always keep a safe distance from the fire and follow the firework code to ensure everyone stays protected. It is a time for communities to come together, wrap up in warm scarves, and look up at the night sky to enjoy the brilliant patterns created by the light.

*Word bank: Gunpowder Plot · tradition · parliament · commemorate · celebration · spectacular*

**1. In what year did the original Gunpowder Plot take place? (1 mark)**

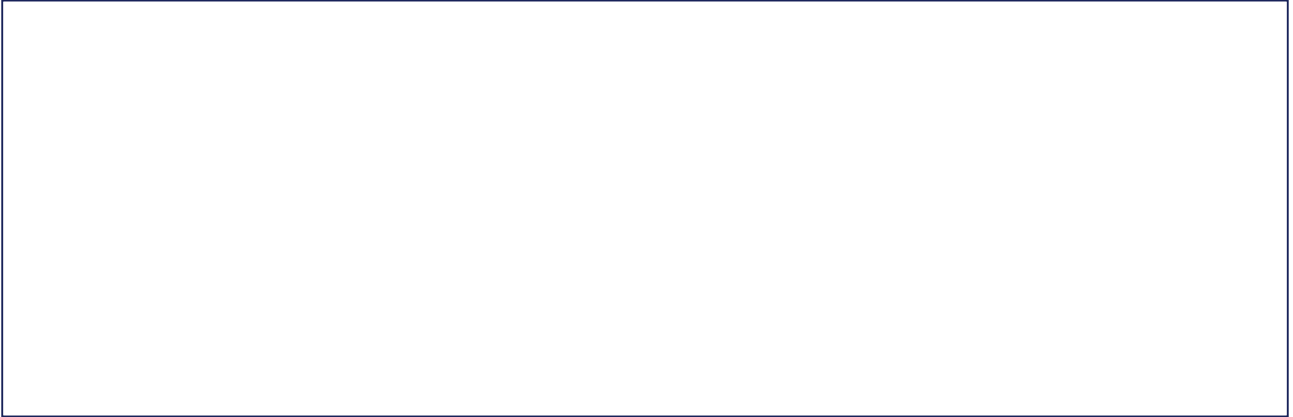
**2. Name two items mentioned in the text that people often eat on Bonfire Night. (2 marks)**

**3. Why do you think the citizens of London lit bonfires in 1605? (2 marks)**

**4. Based on the text, why is it important to follow safety rules during a firework display? (2 marks)**

**5. Do you think Bonfire Night is an important tradition to keep? Explain your reasons. (3 marks)**

**Draw:** Draw a scene of a chilly November evening featuring a large, glowing bonfire and colourful fireworks in the sky. Include Nova the owl watching the display from a nearby tree.



*Extension challenge: Research the 'Firework Code'. Create a colourful poster with three key safety rules to display in your classroom.*