

The History and Science of Bonfire Night

Join Nova the Owl and Max the Monkey as they explore the spark and history of Bonfire Night!

- Bonfire Night commemorates the failure of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605, where a group of men attempted to destroy the Houses of Parliament.
- Guy Fawkes was found guarding barrels of gunpowder hidden beneath the House of Lords, intending to ignite them during the State Opening of Parliament.
- King James I ordered celebrations to take place across the country to mark his survival after the plot was discovered.
- The fireworks we enjoy today rely on combustion; the rapid burning of fuel creates expanding gases that launch the firework into the sky.
- In the UK, safety is a priority, and the Firework Code encourages people to stand well back and keep pets indoors during displays.

Did you know? Did you know? The bright colours you see in fireworks are created by adding different metal salts to the gunpowder. For example, strontium produces a deep red colour, while copper makes a brilliant blue! It is all a clever chemical reaction happening right before your eyes.

Key vocabulary: Gunpowder Plot · Guy Fawkes · Parliament · Combustion · Chemical reaction · Trajectory · Traitor