Bonfire Night: History and Safety Sorting Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the historical context of Bonfire Night and identify key safety rules associated with fireworks and sparklers.

Leo the lion is organising a community event, but he needs help sorting his notes. Read the statements below and sort them into two categories: 'Historical Context' or 'Safety and Celebration'. For the historical statements, explain why they are significant to the 5th of November.

Word bank: Gunpowder Plot · 1605 · Guy Fawkes · Parliament · Sparklers · Gloves · Bucket of water · Safety distance

1. Sort the following statement: 'In 1605, a group of people planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament.' Is this Historical Context or Safety and Celebration? Explain its significance. (2 marks)

2. Sort the following statement: 'Always wear gloves when holding a sparkler and keep a bucket of water nearby.' Is this Historical Context or Safety and Celebration? Why is this rule important? (2 marks)

3. Sort the following statement: 'Guy Fawkes was found in the cellars beneath the building.' Is this Historical Context or Safety and Celebration? How does this relate to the name 'Bonfire Night'? (2 marks)

4. Sort the following statement: 'Maintain a safe distance from the bonfire to avoid flying embers.' Is this Historical Context or Safety and Celebration? List one potential hazard this prevents. (2 marks)

5. If a pack of sparklers costs £2.50 and you buy 4 packs for a neighbourhood gathering, how much do you spend in total? Is this a historical fact or a calculation for the event? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster for Leo the Lion's bonfire event that includes one historical symbol (like a quill or a parliamentary building) and one safety symbol (like a pair of gloves or a bucket).

Extension challenge: Research why we celebrate with fireworks today. Write a short paragraph explaining how the tradition has evolved from the 17th century to modern community displays.