

Bonfire Night: A Spark of History

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills and identify key vocabulary related to the historical events of 5th November.

Read the passage below with Ellie the elephant, who loves history. Once you have finished, answer the questions to test your knowledge of Bonfire Night.

Every year on the 5th of November, people across the United Kingdom gather to watch bright fireworks paint the night sky. This tradition began after a famous event in 1605. A group of men, including Guy Fawkes, plotted to destroy the Houses of Parliament in London using barrels of gunpowder. Their plan was discovered before they could succeed, and the King remained safe. Today, we celebrate the failure of this 'Gunpowder Plot' by lighting large bonfires and enjoying colourful firework displays. It is a time for communities to come together, wrap up warm in coats and scarves, and remember a strange part of our nation's history.

Word bank: Gunpowder · Parliament · Treason · Tradition · Celebration · Explosive

1. According to the text, in which year did the Gunpowder Plot take place? (1 mark)

2. Why do we light bonfires and watch fireworks on the 5th of November? Use evidence from the text. (2 marks)

3. What was the main goal of Guy Fawkes and his group in 1605? (2 marks)

4. Find and copy one word from the text that describes the fireworks. (1 mark)

5. Ellie the elephant loves history. Why do you think it is important for us to learn about events that happened over 400 years ago? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a night sky filled with colourful fireworks. Try to include a bonfire and some people wearing warm clothes in the foreground.



Extension challenge: Imagine you were in London in 1605. Write a short diary entry (3-4 sentences) describing what you see and hear on the night the plot was discovered.