

# Bonfire Night

**Bonfire Night is celebrated every year on 5<sup>th</sup> November.**  
It is also known as Guy Fawkes Night or Fireworks Night.

It remembers how a man called Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament. He did it because he wanted to change the way the country was being run.



The plot failed and Guy Fawkes was caught. Even though some people agreed with Guy Fawkes, there were also lots of people who didn't. People celebrated the Gunpowder Plot's failure. At first, bonfires were lit all over London.

Soon, the whole country was joining in. It became known as Gunpowder Treason Day or Guy Fawkes Night.

Today, Guy Fawkes Night is still celebrated with bonfires; a lot of people now just call it Bonfire Night. Bonfire Night can be celebrated in people's back gardens or at organised events. These are often fun, family events. Food is served, such as toffee apples, hot dogs or jacket potatoes.

## Other Bonfire Nights

In some parts of Northern Ireland, Bonfire Night is also the name for the Eleventh Night celebrations that happen on 11<sup>th</sup> July. They are nothing to do with Guy Fawkes.

**Here are some of the fireworks you might see.**

### Rocket

It flies high and then explodes with a big bang.

### Roman Candle

Roman candles are lots of little balls that shoot out stars. They can make all sorts of colours.

### Mine

The mine fires coloured stars into the sky with a loud bang.

### Fountain

Fountains shoot out a shower of sparks. They are not as loud as some other fireworks.

### Sparkler

Sparklers are fireworks that you can hold on a stick. They give off lots of little sparks.

### Catherine Wheel

This spinning firework often makes crackly, whizzy noises as it whirls around.

## Be Safe with Sparklers!

- Don't put them in your pocket.
- Never pick one up from the floor.
- Make sure you are with an adult.
- Don't wave more than one at a time.
- Wear gloves.
- Hold them at arm's length.
- Put them in water after they go out (they can still burn you).



Pets can get frightened by fireworks. It's a good idea to keep them indoors and close all of the curtains.



## Guy Fawkes' Rhyme

This rhyme has been around for a long time. It reminds people of the day Guy Fawkes planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament.

Remember, remember,  
The fifth of November,  
Gunpowder Treason and plot.  
I see of no reason,  
Why the Gunpowder Treason,  
Should ever be forgot!





# Questions

1. What is Bonfire Night also called? Tick **two**.

- ☐ Guy Fawkes Night
- ☐ Parliament Night
- ☐ Fire Night
- ☐ Fireworks Night

2. What did Guy Fawkes try to blow up?

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3. Do you think people were right to celebrate the gunpowder plot's failure with bonfires?

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4. What date is the Eleventh Night celebrations held on? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 5<sup>th</sup> November
- ☐ 25<sup>th</sup> December
- ☐ 11<sup>th</sup> July
- ☐ 23<sup>rd</sup> January

5. What should you do with pets when there are fireworks?

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6. Number the sentences from 1-5 to show the order in which they occur in the text.  
The first one has been done for you.

	They give off lots of little sparks.
<b>1</b>	He did it because he wanted to change the way the country was being run.
	People celebrated the Gunpowder Plot's failure.
	This rhyme has been around for a long time.
	These are often fun, family events.



7. Draw **three** lines and complete each sentence.

Don't put...

them at arm's length.

Hold...

you are with an adult.

Make sure...

them in your pocket.

8. **Remember, remember!**

**The fifth of November,**

Write **two** reasons why you think the poet used these words to start the rhyme.

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Answers

1. What is Bonfire Night also called? Tick **two**.

☒ **Guy Fawkes Night**

☒ **Fireworks Night**

2. What did Guy Fawkes try to blow up?

**Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament.**

3. Do you think people were right to celebrate the gunpowder plot's failure with bonfires?

☒ **Pupils' own responses, such as: I don't think people were right to celebrate the failure of the gunpowder plot with bonfires because, although Guy Fawkes was wrong to try and blow up the houses of parliament, I don't think bonfires were a safe way to celebrate.**

4. What date is the Eleventh Night celebrations held on? Tick one.

☒ **11<sup>th</sup> July**

5. What should you do with pets when there are fireworks?

**You should keep them indoors and close all the curtains.**

6. Number the sentences from 1-5 to show the order in which they occur in the text. The first one has been done for you.

<b>4</b>	They give off lots of little sparks.
<b>1</b>	He did it because he wanted to change the way the country was being run.
<b>2</b>	People celebrated the Gunpowder Plot's failure.
<b>5</b>	This rhyme has been around for a long time.
<b>3</b>	These are often fun, family events.

7. Link together the correct **Be Safe with Sparklers** instruction.

Don't put...	•	•	them at arm's length.
Hold...	•	•	you are with an adult.
Make sure...	•	•	them in your pocket.

8. **Remember, remember! The fifth of November,**

Write **two** reasons why you think the poet used these words to start the rhyme.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The poet used 'Remember, remember' and 'The fifth of November' to remind people when Bonfire Night is. Also, 'remember' rhymes with 'November'.**