



Bonfire Night

1. As pupils enter

Have the webpage open. Play your chosen music and display one of the images if you wish.

2. Introduction

Tell the assembly that they will be learning about the history of Bonfire Night in the UK. Explain to the group that this is an event that has been happening for more than 400 years, and celebrates the fact that a plot to kill the King was prevented. While they watch the video, ask everyone to think about how Bonfire Night today is related to the events that happened all those years ago.

3. Play the video

The duration is 3' 57". Final words: 'Be safe. And have fun this Bonfire Night.'

4. After the video - Time to talk

Ask: **Turn to the person next to you and tell them your favourite thing to do on Bonfire Night, and why.**

Then lead a discussion about the video to consolidate understanding:

- **Can you remember some other names for Bonfire Night?** (Fireworks Night, Guy Fawkes Night)
- **What happened on 5 November 1605?** (Recap the Gunpowder Plot)
- **Bonfires are lit every 5 November. What other things have people historically done on Bonfire Night?** (Set off fireworks and burn effigies of Guy Fawkes). Follow up with: **Can you remember what the fireworks and the effigies represent?** (The barrels of gunpowder that didn't explode. The effigy is to remember and punish the plotters by making an example of Guy Fawkes. Look for an awareness that the things we do today directly relate to the things that nearly happened in 1605)
- **Can anyone tell me the poem that people recite on Bonfire Night?** ('Remember, remember, the fifth of November'). Follow up with: **Why do you think it is important to remember the gunpowder plot?** (Look for an awareness that we should learn from these important historical events)
- **What are some of the dangers of Bonfire Night?** (Danger of bonfires getting out of control, of fireworks not being set off properly, etc). Then reinforce safety messages about bonfires and fireworks.

6. Opportunity to sing

If your assembly is to include a song this would be a good time to sing.

Video page



7. Opportunity to reflect

Sit quietly now and think about what might have happened if the Gunpowder Plot had not been stopped...

The damage it would have caused... and how many people could have been hurt or killed...

There are still people today who want to do others harm, and we are grateful for the police and everyone else who works hard to stop them... This Bonfire Night, as we have fun together, we should also make sure we stay safe...

And spare a thought too for the plot that was stopped more than 400 years ago...

8. Opportunity for prayer

Thank you that we are able to remember and celebrate an event from more than 400 years ago.

Thank you too for the people who continue to keep us all safe.

Help us to remember the good that people can do, and to follow the rules and stay safe as we celebrate Bonfire Night.

Amen.