

The Gunpowder Plot, 1605

Read it aloud before the fireworks start. About 3 minutes

More than 400 years ago, in 1605, England had a king called James I. He was also King James VI of Scotland.

A group of 13 men were angry that Catholics like them were being treated unfairly. Their leader was Robert Catesby. They made a secret plan to blow up the Houses of Parliament while the King was inside, at the State Opening of Parliament on 5 November.

The plotters rented a cellar right underneath the House of Lords and filled it with 36 barrels of gunpowder, hidden under firewood and coal. A soldier called Guy Fawkes, born in York, was given the job of guarding the gunpowder and lighting the fuse.

But someone sent a letter to Lord Monteagle, warning him to stay away from Parliament. The letter was shown to the King's men, and the cellars were searched.

Just after midnight on 5 November, Guy Fawkes was caught with the gunpowder, matches and a lantern. At first he told the guards his name was John Johnson. The plot had failed.

That night, people in London lit bonfires to celebrate that the King was safe. A law made 5 November a day of thanksgiving, and people have lit bonfires and set off fireworks on that date ever since.

Even today, before the King or Queen opens Parliament, the Yeomen of the Guard search the cellars of the Palace of Westminster. It's a tradition from 1605, just in case.

The old rhyme

Remember, remember the fifth of November,
Gunpowder treason and plot.
I see no reason why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.

Bonfire word search: easy

8 words, across and down only. Ages 5+



☐ Bonfire

☐ Rocket

☐ Spark

☐ Guy

☐ Bang

☐ Smoke

☐ Flame

☐ Night

Fireworks night spotter

Take this to the display or the back garden. Tick each one you see

☐ A rocket that whistles

☐ Someone writing their name with a sparkler

☐ A Catherine wheel

☐ A guy on the bonfire

☐ A Roman candle

☐ A toffee apple

☐ A fountain firework

☐ A cup of hot chocolate

☐ A red firework

☐ Someone in wellies

☐ A green firework

☐ A glow stick

☐ A blue firework

☐ Somebody saying 'Ooooh!'

☐ A gold, glittery one

☐ The moon

Score your favourite firework

Colour ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Noise ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

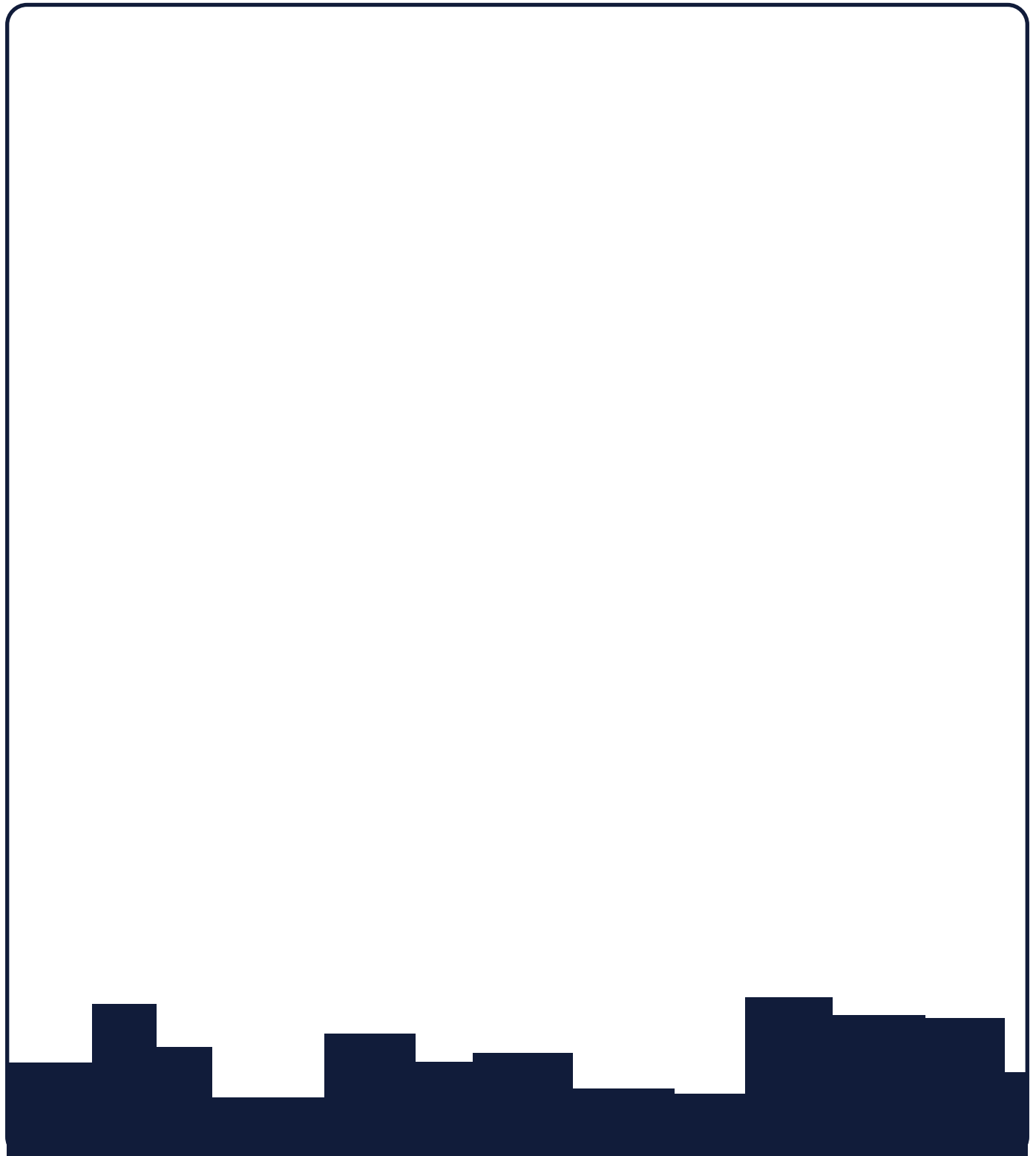
Height ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Sparkle ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Best of the night:

Design a firework display

Draw your own fireworks in the sky above the town



Give your best firework a name: _____