

largest firework weighed children traditionally over half a ton and was set off at a festival in Japan in 1988.

first fireworks were used in China. in the 12th century and were believed to scare away bad spirits.

The

Why do fireworks whistle?

sparkler has moved.

iron, zinc or steel.

Carbon dioxide gas from the burning explosive is forced through a hole in the firework shell, makina a

Fireworks whistling sound were first used in Britain at the wedding of Henry VII

in 1486.

Ouick-FIRE auestions

Why do sparklers make sparks when you light them?

The sparks come from flakes of heated metals, such as aluminium,

Why do we see a path of light left behind when we wave a sparkler? The light from the sparkler is so bright it sets off nerve cells at the

back of our eyes, which stay triggered for a short time after the

Japanese word for firework is hanabi, which means 'fireflower'. Firework shapes are often named after flowers

or trees - such as peony, chrysanthemum, dahlia, willow and palm.

Gunpowder, treason and plot!

On Bonfire Night on 5th November, we light bonfires, fireworks fly through the air and often a man or 'guy', made out of old clothes and stuffed with paper, is burned on top of the bonfire. These celebrations are a way of remembering the events of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, where a group of 13 men tried to blow up the King, James I, and the Houses of Parliament in London. Guy Fawkes was one of the men who took part in the plot.

The plotters, led by Robert Catesby, were protesting at the cruel treatment of people who were members of the Catholic Church by the King and the Government. They hid 36

under the House of Lords and planned to light them, causing an explosion that would blow up the buildings, the King and everyone in parliament. But some of the plotters were worried that innocent people would be killed and one of them sent an anonymous letter to his friend, Lord Monteagle, warning him to stay away on the day that the explosion was planned. Lord Monteagle warned the Chief Minister who sent soldiers to search the building. They caught Guy Fawkes in the cellar with the gunpowder.

barrels of gunpowder in a cellar

All the men who took part in the plot were caught, and

were either executed or killed trying to escape. Bonfires were set alight around the country to celebrate the Kina's safety and the tradition is still going to this day.

Bonfire bonanza

play tricks on their

neighbours.

Some people believe that the word bonfire comes from 'bone-fire'. In medieval times. people are said to have lit fires containing human or animal bones to scare off dragons!

Others believe that the word bonfire may come from the Scottish word bane, which means 'beacon' or 'signal'. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, a chain of huge bonfires was lit, all the way from the south coast to London, to warn people of the arrival of the Spanish Armada - a fleet of ships sent by the King of Spain to attack Britain.

How to KEEP SAFE on Bonfire Night

Go to a public fireworks display if you can, or one organised by a responsible adult, and follow these rules:

KEEP well back from bonfires and areas where fireworks have been set up and NEVER, EVER go back to a firework that has already

KEEP sparklers at arm's length and wear gloves - always stand still when you are waving a sparkler and don't wave them towards

KEEP a bucket of water nearby to place finished sparklers in even when they have gone out, the metal can still be hot enough to burn you;

KEEP fireworks in a metal box well away from any flames;

KEEP pets indoors - the loud bangs can frighten them.

Firework feasts

Lots of different types of food are eaten on 5th November. They include:

Parkin: a cake made with oatmeal and black treacle:

Treacle toffee: made

treacle, sugar and

with black

golden syrup;

Baked toffee apples: an apple on a stick, covered

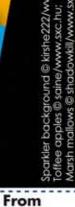
toffee:

heated by the bonfire: **Baked potatoes:** wrapped in foil and cooked in the

embers of the bonfire.

Toasted marshmallows:

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