

juniors

# FIREWORKS AND BONFIRES







## THEMED PROGRAMME



### AIM

Celebrate Bonfire Night with a mixture of activities, aimed to bring the gunpowder plot and the traditions of Bonfire Night to life. Ideal around 5th November.

### ACTIVITIES

-  The Gunpowder Plot
-  Bonfire Treats
-  Sparklers
-  Apple Bobbing
-  Firework Chalk Drawings
-  Light of the World

**THE BOYS'**  
**BRIGADE**  
>the adventure begins here



# FIREWORKS AND BONFIRES

## » INTRODUCTION

Bonfire Night is celebrated on the 5th November each year and marks the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot.

In 1605, Guy Fawkes and his conspirers attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament with King James I and his government inside. However, his plot was rumbled, and he and his supporters were arrested & executed.

These days we remember the event by setting off fireworks and lighting bonfires to burn the 'Guy'.

## ? DID YOU KNOW?

- There were 36 barrels of gunpowder ready to explode. Enough to cause damage within a radius of almost 500 metres.
- Up until 1959 it was illegal not to celebrate bonfire night.
- However, during WWI & WWII, no one was allowed to set off fireworks or light bonfires.
- Fireworks can reach speeds of 150 MPH.
- The first documented fireworks display in the UK was in 1486 for the wedding of Henry VII to Elizabeth of York.



GET LEARNING



10 MINUTES



PREPARATION  
NEEDED

## GET LEARNING: THE GUNPOWDER PLOT



Download 'Gunpowder Plot' Sequence Cards to help tell the story of Guy Fawkes.

See if your group can put the events of the gunpowder plot in the correct order.

Before this activity you will need to print off the cards, cut them up and mix them up. Remember to take a note of the correct order before cutting them out. The correct order is how they appear on the template.

If you have time afterwards, get your group to act out the events as they appear on the sequence cards.

You can find additional resources including including videos to help your group learn about The Gunpowder Plot at [parliament.uk/education](http://parliament.uk/education)



GET CREATIVE



15 MINUTES



PREPARATION  
NEEDED

## GET CREATIVE: BONFIRE TREATS

For generations, people have been celebrating Bonfire night with fireworks, bonfires and tasty treats. Here are two treats your group can create:



**Chocolate Apples** – Melt chocolate into a bowl. Carefully place a lollypop stick into the top of an apple and then dip the apple into the bowl of chocolate and ensure it is covered in chocolate. Now dip the chocolate covered apple into a bowl of hundreds & thousands to decorate. Leave a while for the chocolate apple to set and then enjoy.

**S'mores** – Toast a marshmallow above a bonfire, disposable BBQ or flame. Once toasted place the marshmallow between two chocolate digestive biscuits, with the chocolate sides on the inside, to form a sandwich. Be careful when toasting the marshmallow and ensure suitable adult supervision is in place.

  
**GET ADVENTUROUS**

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**10 MINUTES**

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**PREPARATION NEEDED**

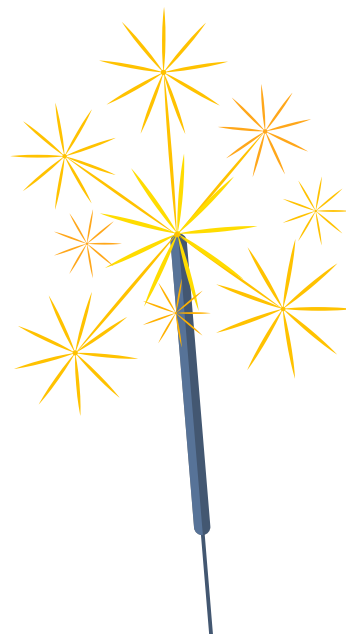
## GET ADVENTUROUS: SPARKLERS

Take your group outside and let them try out sparklers in a safe and controlled way.

Firstly, set out some cones or hoops for your children to stand by or in. Make sure these are well spread out, to ensure members are far enough away from each other. You will also need a bucket of water for used sparklers to go straight into once they are finished. Members should be asked to remain by their cone or in the hoop at all times.

Before lighting the sparklers, give your group a quick safety talk highlighting the dangers involved with sparklers and how we make sure we are safe.

Once lit, your group can make small movements with the sparkler, try to spell out letters or just enjoy the sparkle! Leaders could download a 'Slow Shutter' app or make the necessary adjustments to a camera to capture the actions made using the sparklers.



  
**GET ACTIVE**

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**15 MINUTES**

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**PREPARATION NEEDED**

## GET ACTIVE: APPLE BOBBING


A traditional game enjoyed at Bonfire parties across the country is apple bobbing. For this you will need a large bowl of water with some apples floating in it. Ensure you have at least one apple per person.

Children can then take turns in trying to retrieve the apple from the water, using just their mouth. It might get a bit wet, so make sure you have a towel for your group to dry themselves with.

You could make the activity into a relay game, by splitting your group into teams and having them compete as a team to try and retrieve their apples the quickest.

  
**GET CREATIVE**

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**15 MINUTES**

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**IN THE CUPBOARD**

## GET CREATIVE: FIREWORK CHALK DRAWINGS

Give each child a piece of black card or paper. Using coloured chalk, create firework explosions on the card by drawing a small ball as the centre of the firework and then lines coming out of the centre explosion.

Encourage your group to make their artwork as colourful as they can, by using different coloured chalks and by creating different sized explosions in the sky.

Take this activity further by using different materials, such as glitter glue pens or paints.



10 MINUTES



PREPARATION  
NEEDED

## GET INTO THE BIBLE: LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Fireworks help to light up the night sky. They are full of colour, look awesome and can be seen for miles around. These little rockets of light have a big impact and can help make people feel happy and full of joy. However, fireworks only last for a very short time and then they are gone.

Can your group name other sources of light which last a lot longer? Light bulbs, candles, the sun, stars etc.

Light is really important in our world and helps us to light up dark places, so we can see and feel safe. Turn off the lights in your room and ask your group what it feels like to sit in a dark room. Does it make them a little uncomfortable? Scared? Unsure of their surroundings?

Now light a candle to help light up the room. Do your group now feel a little safer and more comfortable? What has happened to the darkness? It has been overcome by the light. Even a small light like a candle can help to light up an area and be seen by everyone in the room. This small light can help us find our way and not be afraid.



**Read John 8:12.**

Jesus called himself, the 'Light of the World'. What do you think he meant by this? What does light help us do? It shows us the way to go and helps us see things that are not good for us. Jesus showed us the way to go and how to live our lives in a good way. He helps us when there are difficulties (darkness).

God wants us to be lights in the world too. He wants us to use our words and actions in a way that reflects the light of Christ and shines this light into darkness. Ask your group how they think they can shine their light in the world? Helping others, being kind, trusting in God, doing good deeds, praying.

