

Crack! Boom! Pop!

Words You'll See

Ancient

Celebration

Chemical

Firework

Hollow

Material

Occasion

Rugged

People love to watch fireworks. We light them on holidays like Fourth of July and New Year's Eve. Humans have used fireworks for a really long time. Let's learn about their history.

The ancient Chinese first discovered something that went boom. In the second century B.C.E., people would put bamboo sticks in a fire. The center of the bamboo is mostly hollow. As the air inside the bamboo got hot, it would push against the side of the bamboo until it finally popped open making a loud noise. People thought that the loud bang would scare away evil spirits.

Almost 1,000 years later, around 600 C.E., a Chinese scientist added a few chemicals together and created gun powder. People poured the powder into bamboo or rugged paper tubes to make fireworks. Explorers brought the firework idea to Europe where they were used during celebrations and fancy occasions.

Later, more scientists would add special chemicals and materials to the fireworks to make it burn special colors. They changed the shape and material of the firework to make it look different in the sky, too.

In 2020, a massive 2,800 pound firework went KAAABOOOOOM in the skies over Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The rocket zoomed into the air at 300 miles per hour setting a world record. The fireworks of today look a lot different than the bamboo sticks used centuries ago in China.

Ref

American Pyrotechnics Association. (n.d.) *History of fireworks*. Retrieved March 16, 2022 from <https://www.americanpyro.com/history-of-fireworks>
Rossen, J. (2021, June 21). *9 fascinating facts about fireworks*. Mental Floss. Retrieved March 17, 2022, from <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/647518/fireworks-facts>



Name _____

Date _____

Crack! Boom! Pop!

1. What culture was the first to make fireworks?

2. The early explosions were from throwing bamboo into what?

3. What did a Chinese scientist invent around 600 C.E.?

4. The early fireworks were made out of bamboo or what?

5. In 2020, a massive firework was set off in Colorado. How fast was it going?

6. Name five events where people might set fireworks off.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Name _____

Date _____

Crack! Boom! Pop!

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