

Answers Close Reading: Questions and Answers

Name: _____ Date: _____

As you read the nonfiction text below, come up with 3 questions. Record them in the chart. Then, record the answer.

Fireworks were invented in China in the 7th century. The story told is that a group of Chinese monks were trying to create a medicine that would give people immortality. Instead, they accidentally invented gunpowder, which is the explosive used in fireworks.

Gunpowder was eventually used for guns and bombs, but since its invention it has always been used for fireworks too. The Chinese would use the gunpowder as signal flares and for celebrations.

Over time people learned that if certain metals were mixed with the gunpowder brilliant colors could be made when it was ignited. Many more advancements have happened that let fireworks create all sorts of shapes and sounds, but they still work in the same way today.

For a long time fireworks have been a big part of Fourth of July celebrations in the United States. This is partly because they symbolize the rockets and explosions that Francis Scott Key wrote about in his song "The Star Spangled Banner."

***Answers will vary, but may include:**

1. Question: **What is a monk?**

**Answer: A monk must be someone who helps others because in the text it says, "Chinese monks were trying to create a medicine."
(paragraph 1)**

2. Question: **How do fireworks become colorful?**

**Answer: To make colors, certain metals are mixed with the gunpowder.
(paragraph 3)**

3. Question: **Why do we use fireworks for the 4th of July?**

Answer: We use fireworks on the 4th of July because they symbolize the explosions and rockets mentioned in "The Star Spangled Banner." (paragraph 4)