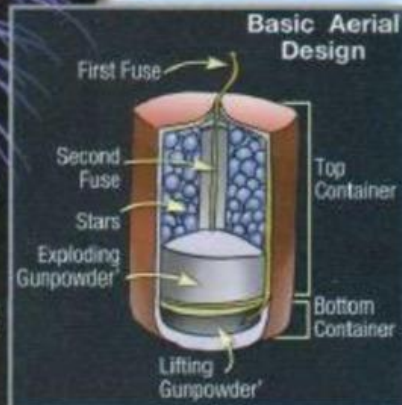


# How Fireworks Work



People have used fireworks to celebrate special occasions since the 7th century, but how do they actually work?

Most fireworks have two main parts. At the bottom there is a small container full of gunpowder. This container connects to a fuse. Most people put fireworks in steel tubes and point them towards the sky. After the fuse burns for a few seconds, it lights the gunpowder in the bottom container and makes it explode. Then, the firework flies out of the tube and into the sky.

When the bottom container explodes it lights another fuse which burns while the firework is rising into the sky. After a few seconds, this second fuse lights gunpowder in the top container and makes it explode, too. When this happens, small balls burst out of the firework and start burning.

These balls are called stars and they are full of chemicals. When these chemicals burn, they create beautiful rays of light in the sky in all different colours! Magnesium, for example, creates bright white light while copper creates a blue or purple colour.

- 1 ★ Put the sentences in the correct order (1-8). Then use the sentences to write a paragraph about how fireworks work.

- ☐ The gunpowder in the bottom container explodes.
- ☐ Someone lights a fuse in the bottom container.
- ☐ Burning balls create rays of colour in the sky.
- ☐ Someone puts the firework in a steel tube.
- ☐ The gunpowder in the top container explodes.
- ☐ Balls burst out of the top container.
- ☐ The fuse in the top container starts burning.
- ☐ The firework rises into the sky.

- 2 ★★ **THINK!** Some people think that fireworks displays are a waste of money. What do you think? Write a short paragraph giving your opinion.