

Bombs Bursting in Air -- Sounds of the Fourth of July

By Colleen Messina

Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star Spangled Banner," and he included lines that said "And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there." Today we celebrate the Fourth of July with brilliant explosions of fireworks. These dazzling balls of fire that light up the sky are incredible blends of colors and patterns...and sounds!



There are many kinds of fireworks, and each kind has its own unique sound. One popular type of firecracker is called a bottle rocket. This is a miniature rocket. It zips into the air with a sharp, high sound. After that comes a big pop! A skyrocket firecracker is like a bottle rocket, but this firecracker explodes into colors. It makes louder noises than a bottle rocket.

Saturn missiles launch many rockets at one time and create an array of whistling sounds followed by quick pops. Saturn missiles are not for the faint of heart, so have your earplugs ready! If Saturn missiles are too loud for you, a champagne popper might be better. When you pull a string on these small firecrackers, confetti sprays out with a quick pop!

Roman candles make a lower sound. Roman candles have fireballs that shoot out of the end of a tube. These fireballs are also called stars or exploding shells. They range in size from 1/4 inch in diameter to 3 inches in diameter.

The vast variety of sights and sounds of fireworks are a great way to celebrate the birth of our nation. Fireworks are fun, but everyone needs to be careful and follow safety rules during these displays. After the snap, crackle, pop of these rockets and missiles, the best sound at the end of a Fourth of July celebration is a round of claps and cheers for fireworks and freedom!

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Questions

- _____ 1. Which type of firecracker sprays confetti?
- A. bottle rockets
 - B. Saturn missiles
 - C. Roman candles
 - D. champagne poppers
- _____ 2. It is important to follow safety rules during fireworks displays.
- A. true
 - B. false
- _____ 3. Which song is mentioned in this article?
- A. "Anchors Aweigh"
 - B. "America the Beautiful"
 - C. "The Star Spangled Banner"
 - D. "God Bless America"

