



# Do you know what 'flash in the pan' means?

When we say something is a 'flash in the pan' we mean that it has failed, despite a promising beginning which made it seem like it had the potential for success.

## Origin - the story:

This phrase originated in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when flintlock muskets were in use. These muskets had small pans which held the gunpowder charges. Sometimes, a musket would attempt to fire but fail. When this happened, gunpowder would flare up but a bullet wouldn't actually fire. This was referred to as a flash in the pan.

**Example:** It seems the business' success last year was a flash in the pan and they may have to close down soon.

