

The Gunpowder Plot



On 4th November 1605, a dangerous plot was stopped in its tracks. This plot was known as the Gunpowder Plot because it planned to ignite over 30 barrels of gunpowder. If the plot hadn't been stopped, the King of England and many other people would have been caught in the explosion.



Plotting



In 1605, King James I was the ruler of England. For many years, Catholics had been poorly treated. Many Catholics hoped that the new King would treat them more fairly but this was not the case.

Early in 1605, it is thought that Robert Catesby met with a group of people and suggested a dangerous plot. He was worried and wanted to do something that he believed would make life better for Catholics.

The Plot

On 5th November 1605, lots of people were due to visit the House of Lords for the State Opening of Parliament. This ceremony included the King and other important lawmakers.

The plan was for Guy Fawkes to ignite a large amount of gunpowder beneath the House of Lords on 5th November. Before this date, the group hired a cellar that was directly beneath the House of Lords. It is thought the group had hidden 36 barrels of gunpowder inside the cellar by the beginning of November.

When the plan was ready, Guy Fawkes waited with the barrels of gunpowder for the perfect time to light the fuse and escape.



The Letter

On 26th October 1605, Lord Monteagle received a letter. The letter told him not to go to the House of Lords on 5th November. Immediately, Lord Monteagle showed the letter to King James I, who ordered guards to investigate.

Did You Know...?

The letter that Lord Monteagle received didn't have a name on it. To this day, nobody is certain who sent it.

The guards discovered Guy Fawkes hiding with the barrels of gunpowder beneath the House of Lords. They also found matches and a watch inside his pocket.

Guy Fawkes was taken to the Tower of London. While there, he gave the guards the names of the others who had been involved in the plot. They were all found guilty of **treason** and were punished.

Bonfire Night

After the Gunpowder Plot had been stopped, King James I asked people to light bonfires to remember what could have happened. Over 400 years later, many people in Britain still choose to light bonfires and enjoy fireworks on 5th November.

Glossary

treason: A crime of doing something that could put your country in danger.



Questions

1. Who did Lord Monteagle show the letter that he had received to? Tick one.

- Robert Catesby
- Guy Fawkes
- King James I
- nobody

2. What was Guy Fawkes found guilty of? Tick one.

- stealing gunpowder
- breaking and entering
- treason
- speeding

3. Draw **four** lines and match each event to the date that it happened.

Lord Monteagle received a letter.	early in 1605
The Gunpowder Plot was planned to take place.	26 th October 1605
Robert Catesby met with a group of people.	4 th November 1605
The Gunpowder Plot was stopped in its tracks.	5 th November 1605

4. Which section gives the reader information about why Robert Catesby came up with a plot? Tick one.

- Plotting**
- The Plot**
- The Letter**
- Bonfire Night**

5. The group hired a cellar. Where was it?

6. Look at the section titled **Did You Know...?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'sure'.

7. The letter that Lord Montague received didn't have a name on it. Explain why you think that the author didn't want to write their name.

8. Using 25 words or fewer, summarise what you have learnt about the Gunpowder Plot.
