

# The Gunpowder Plot



A dangerous plot was stopped in its tracks on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1605. This plot was known as the Gunpowder Plot because it planned to set fire to lots of barrels of gunpowder.



## Plotting



King James I was the ruler of England in 1605. Catholics had been poorly treated and many hoped that the new king would treat them more fairly. Unfortunately, this didn't happen.

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

## The Plot

Lots of people were due to visit the House of Lords on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1605. These people included King James I and other important lawmakers.

The plan was for Guy Fawkes to light a fuse leading to barrels of gunpowder underneath the House of Lords while The King was visiting. It is thought that 36 barrels of gunpowder had been hidden in a cellar beneath the House of Lords.

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

## The Letter

Lord Monteagle was given a letter on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1605. The letter told him not to go to the House of Lords on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Immediately, Lord Monteagle took the letter to King James I, who asked guards to investigate.

## Did You Know...?

The letter that Lord Montague received didn't have a name on it. People still don't know who sent it.

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

Guy Fawkes was taken to the Tower of London. He told the guards the names of the others who had been a part of the plot. They were all found guilty of **treason** and were punished.

## Did You Know...?

Many people in Britain choose to light bonfires on 5<sup>th</sup> November to remember the Gunpowder Plot.

## Glossary

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



# Questions

1. Who was the ruler of England in 1605? Tick one.

- King Edward I
- King James I
- Queen Elizabeth I
- King Henry VIII

2. How many barrels of gunpowder were thought to have been hidden beneath the House of Lords? Tick one.

- 33 barrels
- 34 barrels
- 35 barrels
- 36 barrels

3. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Lord Monteaule took the letter to the King.
- The guards discovered Guy Fawkes hiding.
- Lord Monteaule was given a letter.
- The King asked the guards to investigate.

4. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

The letter didn't have...

● bonfires on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Many people in  
Britain light...

● the Tower of London.

Guy Fawkes  
was taken to...

● a name on it.

Robert Catesby met...

● with a group of people.

5. Look at the section titled **Plotting**.

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

---

6. On which date was Lord Monteaagle given a letter?

---

7. Imagine that you are Lord Monteaagle. Explain how you are feeling when you are given the letter.

---

---

---