

History Topic:

The Gunpowder Plot

Year:

Year 2 Autumn 2

Key Places and Vocabulary

Anniversary	The date on which an event took place
Government	A group of people that can make laws to rule the UK.
Houses of Parliament	The building in London where the government works
Gunpowder	An explosive powder that was used in guns.
Plot	A secret plan to do something
Treason	Carrying out a crime against a country, monarch or government.
Catholic	Catholicism and Protestantism are both types of Christianity.
Protestant	
Monarch	A king or queen (for example King James I).

Key Events of the Gunpowder Plot

In 1605 King James I (a Protestant) was the King of England. However, some people did not like him because Catholics were treated unfairly.

A man called Guy Fawkes and his friends (who were all Catholic) wanted King James to be removed from the throne and plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament with the King and his government inside. They decided to use gunpowder to blow up underneath the King's chair. Their plan was to cause an enormous explosion! Thirty- six barrels of gunpowder were put in the cellars of the Houses of Parliament on the 5th of November 1605.

But the plan did not work! A letter was sent to Lord Monteaagle, who was due to go to the Houses of Parliament, warning him about the plot. He told the king, who sent guards to search the cellars. They found Guy Fawkes and gunpowder.

Guy Fawkes and his friends were put in prison until he confessed to trying to blow up the Houses of Parliament, the King and his government. Guy Fawkes was executed.

The King decided that on the 5th of November every year from that day we would remember the Gunpowder Plot and how Guy Fawkes' plan failed. Every year we burn bonfires and put a model of Guy Fawkes on top. We light fireworks and sparklers and celebrate the failure of the Gunpowder Plot.

Key people



Robert Catesby was a Catholic. He was the leader of the group plotting to blow up the Houses of Parliament.



Guy Fawkes was a Catholic. For a little while, he lived in Spain where he learned how to fight and became an expert in gunpowder. Guy Fawkes was an important member of the group who plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament. He was discovered by guards in the cellar with the barrels of gunpowder.



King James I became King of England when Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603. He was Elizabeth's cousin. He was a Protestant. Lots of people did not like him because he was unkind to Catholics.

March 1603	January 1604	April 1604	February 1605	October 1605	November 1605	5th November 1605
Elizabeth I dies. Her cousin becomes King James I of England.	Catesby starts planning the Gunpowder Plot.	Guy Fawkes is recruited as explosives expert.	A tunnel is dug towards Parliament. The Gunpowder is smuggled inside.	Lord Monteaagle receives a letter of warning.	The King is shown the letter and The King's Men search the vaults.	Guy Fawkes is arrested and questioned. He is found guilty.

Remember, remember, the 5th of November

The Gunpowder Treason and plot;
I see no reason why Gunpowder Treason
Should ever be forgot.