

Bonfire Night

Bonfire Night is an annual event that takes place in the UK on 5th November. It commemorates a failed attempt on the life of King James I of England, which aimed to secure improved rights and safety for Catholics in England. Bonfires were lit that first night in 1605 as a celebration of the King being safe.

The Gunpowder Plot

At the time of the Gunpowder Plot, Catholics were not treated equally in England. The monarch and government were Protestant and they believed all people in England should attend the Church of England. Catholic people in England hoped that King James I would be more forgiving of the Catholic faith because he had both a Catholic wife and a Catholic mother. However, he was no more accepting of Catholic people and their faith than the previous queen. Many Catholics longed for a change in monarch to allow them to live and practice their religion safely.



A prominent Catholic man called Robert Catesby was keen to take forceful action. Along with Guy Fawkes and a group of like-minded Catholics, a plan to blow up the Houses of Parliament was formed. The aim was to **assassinate** the King along with many of the people who sympathised with his approach to Catholic **oppression**. They planned to hide a large quantity of gunpowder underneath the Houses of Parliament and then detonate it during the State Opening of Parliament ceremony when the King, his heir and his closest advisors were guaranteed to be present.





Around a week before Catesby's plan was due to be carried out, an MP called Lord Monteagle received an **anonymous** letter warning him not to go to the Houses of Parliament on 5th November; loyal to the crown, he immediately informed the King's advisors. During a search of the Houses of Parliament, a suspicious man was discovered carrying matches and **touchwood**. He later revealed himself to be Guy Fawkes; he had been caught in the act. Further investigation of the cellars recovered 36 barrels of gunpowder hidden under piles of sticks and coal.

Guy Fawkes was found guilty of **high treason** and sentenced to death along with many of his fellow plotters.



Did you know...?

Guy Fawkes, was originally from York. In recognition of a former resident, no effigies are burned on celebratory bonfires in York still to this day.



The Plotter's Legacy

Each year, on 5th November, people across the UK remember the night in which a plan to change the course of history was foiled. In order to ensure a similar plot can never be successful, the tradition of searching the cellars beneath the Palace of Westminster prior to the State Opening of the Houses of Parliament continues to this day.



Glossary

oppression: The cruel and unfair treatment of people, especially by not giving them the same freedom, rights, etc. as other people.

assassinate: To cause the death of an important or famous person for political reasons.

anonymous: A person with a name that is not known or that is not made public.

touchwood: Highly flammable wood used to start fires.

high treason: The crime of doing something that could cause danger to your country.

Questions

1. When is Bonfire Night? Tick one.

- October
- November
- December
- May

2. Look at the sentence below. Underline the word or phrase that tells you that being a Catholic made life more difficult.

At the time of the Gunpowder Plot, Catholics were not treated equally in England.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **A prominent Catholic man...**

Find and copy one word which means 'cruel and unfair treatment'.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Each year, on 5th November, people across the UK _____ the night in which a plan to change the course of _____ was foiled.

5. Where did Robert Catesby and his associates hide their explosives?

6. Why do people in the UK hold events to mark 5th November?

7. How do you predict celebrations of Bonfire Night could change in the future?

8. Summarise the key points you have learnt about Bonfire Night in 30 words or fewer.

Answers

- When is Bonfire Night? Tick one.
 - October
 - November**
 - December
 - May
- Look at the sentence below. Underline the word or phrase that tells you that being a Catholic made life more difficult.
At the time of the Gunpowder Plot, Catholics were not treated equally in England.
Award 1 mark for:
 - **equally**
- Look at the paragraph beginning **A prominent Catholic man...**
 Find and copy one word which means 'cruel and unfair treatment'.
oppression
- Fill in the missing words.
 Each year, on 5th November, people across the UK **remember** the night in which a plan to change the course of **history** was foiled.
- Where did Robert Catesby and his associates hide their explosives?
Robert Catesby and his associates hid their explosives in a cellar under the Houses of Parliament.
- Why do people in the UK hold events to mark 5th November?
Pupils' own responses, such as: People in the UK mark 5th November because it is an important historical event when a plan that could have changed the course of history was foiled.
- How do you predict celebrations of Bonfire Night could change in the future?
Pupils' own responses, such as: I predict the event will become more of a cultural acknowledgement of an important event rather than a celebration of the failure of the plot.
- Summarise the key points you have learnt about Bonfire Night in 30 words or fewer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: Bonfire Night takes place every November in the UK to commemorate a failed plot by mistreated Catholics to overthrow the King and achieve equality for Catholics and Protestants.

Bonfire Night

Bonfire Night is an annual event which takes place in the UK on 5th November. It commemorates a failed attempt on the life of King James I of England, which aimed to secure improved rights and safety for Catholics in England. Bonfires were lit that first night in 1605 as a celebration of the King being safe. As the years went by, the burning of effigies (straw dummies) representing Guy Fawkes, who was one of the men involved in the plan, became a popular tradition. Many people still enjoy celebrating the event by holding or attending firework displays and bonfires.

The Gunpowder Plot

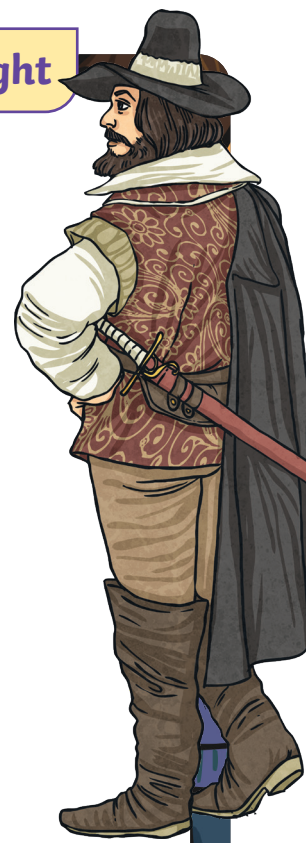
At the time of the Gunpowder Plot, Catholics were discriminated against in England. Their central act of worship - Mass - was forbidden and their priests were persecuted. After Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603, Catholic people in England were led to believe that although her successor - King James I - was a Protestant, he would be more tolerant of the Catholic faith especially as he had both a Catholic wife and a Catholic mother (Mary, Queen of Scots). However, it soon became apparent that he was no more accepting of Catholic people and their faith than his predecessor. Many Catholics longed for a change in monarch to allow for a more liberated and equal lifestyle for themselves and their families.



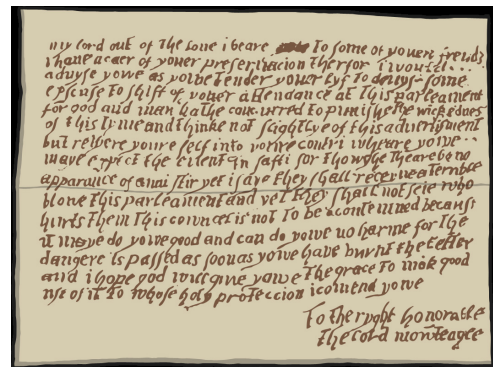


Devout Catholic Robert Catesby, whose father had been persecuted by Queen Elizabeth I's government, was keen to take violent action. In conjunction with Guy Fawkes and a group of like-minded Catholics, a plan to blow up the Houses of Parliament was formed. The aim was to assassinate the King along with many of the people who sympathised with his approach to Catholic mistreatment. Their plan was to install and detonate a large quantity of gunpowder underneath the Houses of Parliament during the State Opening of Parliament ceremony when the King, his heir and his closest advisors were guaranteed to be present.

The group began making arrangements for their plot to be put into action and were able to rent a cellar directly beneath the Houses of Parliament.



Around a week before Catesby's plan was due to be carried out, an MP called Lord Montague received an anonymous letter warning him not to go to the Houses of Parliament on 5th November; loyal to the crown, he immediately informed the King's advisors. A quote from the letter: 'a terrible blow to parliament' hinted at the use of explosives and an immediate search of the entire building was ordered. During the search, a suspicious man was discovered; he carried a pocket watch, several slow matches (the slow-burning cord or twine fuse used to ignite gunpowder) and touchwood (readily flammable wood used as tinder). This dubious character later revealed himself to be Guy Fawkes. Further investigation in the cellars disclosed 36 barrels of gunpowder hidden under piles of sticks and coal. He was arrested and taken to the King on the morning of 5th November.



Following the discovery and subsequent arrest of Guy Fawkes, the rest of the group fled. Guy Fawkes was found guilty of high treason, which is the crime of betraying your country; he was sentenced to a traitor's death along with many of his fellow plotters.



Did you know...?

Guy Fawkes, was originally from York. In recognition of a former resident, no effigies are burned on celebratory bonfires in York still to this day.



The Plotter's Legacy

Each year, on 5th November, the failed gunpowder plot is remembered through the lighting of bonfires and fireworks, which are made using gunpowder. People across the UK remember the night in which a plan to change the course of history was foiled. In order to ensure a similar plot can never be successful, the tradition of searching the cellars beneath the Palace of Westminster prior to the State Opening of the Houses of Parliament continues to this day.



Questions

1. Who was the monarch at the time of the plot? Tick one.

- Elizabeth I
 James I
 Robert Catesby
 James VI

2. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its definition.

commemorate

To treat one person or group differently than another in an unfair way.

discriminated

To remind people of an important event or person from the past.

sympathised

Somebody who does not want their identity to be known.

anonymous

To understand and support somebody or something.

3. Find and copy the words from Lord Monteagle's warning letter which hinted at the use of explosives.

4. What is an effigy?

5. Fill in the missing words.

Following the discovery and _____ arrest of Guy Fawkes, the rest of the group _____.

6. Explain what Robert Catesby and his associates wanted to achieve if their plan had succeeded.

7. Do you think people in the UK today are celebrating for the same reasons as the people who lit bonfires on 5th November 1605?

8. Summarise what you have learnt about religion in England in the 1600s.

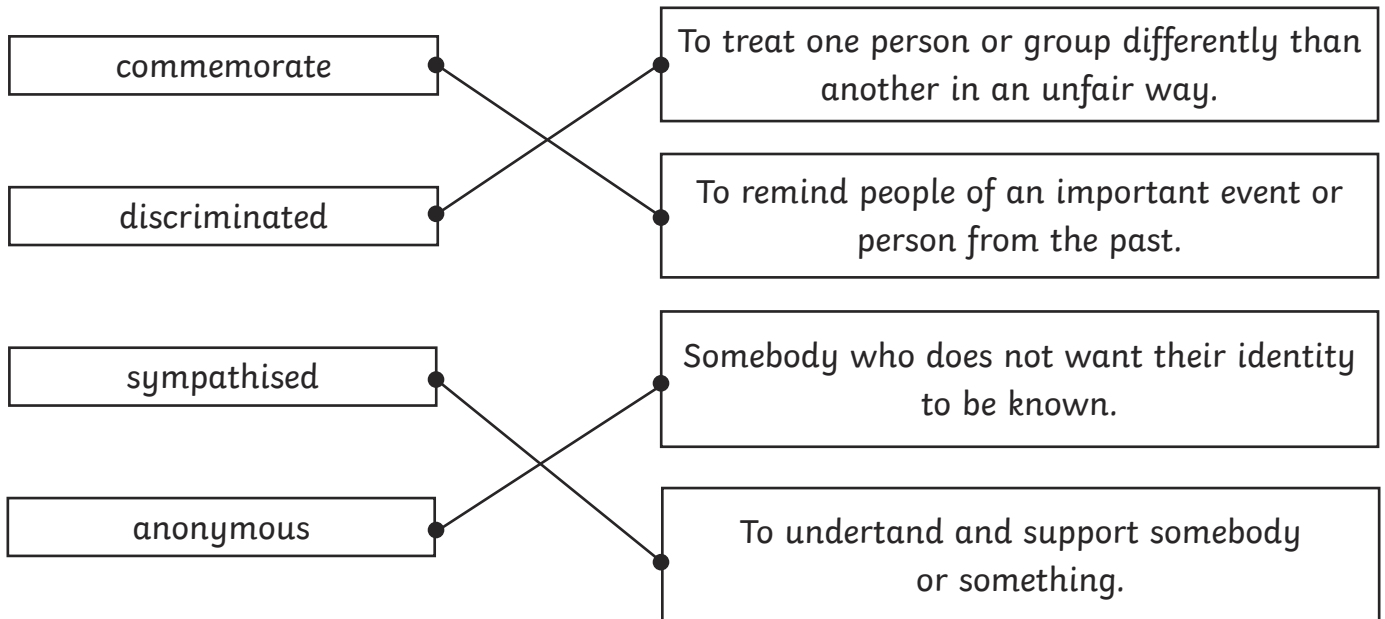
9. Today, people's rights to practice their religion are protected in the UK. Do you think everyone is equal in the UK?

Answers

1. Who was the monarch at the time of the plot? Tick **one**.

- Elizabeth I
 James I
 Robert Catesby
 James VI

2. Draw **four** lines and match each word to its definition.



3. Find and copy the words from Lord Monteaule's warning letter which hinted at the use of explosives.

'a terrible blow to parliament'

4. What is an effigy?

An effigy is a straw dummy.

5. Fill in the missing words.

Following the discovery and **subsequent** arrest of Guy Fawkes, the rest of the group **fled**.

6. Explain what Robert Catesby and his associates wanted to achieve if their plan had succeeded.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Robert Catesby and his group were aiming to remove the protestant King, James I, by causing an explosion in the Houses of Parliament. They were hoping that a different monarch would ensure better safety for Catholics.

7. Do you think people in the UK today are celebrating for the same reasons as the people who lit bonfires on 5th November 1605?

Pupils' own responses, such as: No, I think that today, when people hold events on Bonfire Night, they are marking an important cultural event from history, not celebrating the fact that people had to fight to practice their religion safely.

8. Summarise what you have learnt about religion in England in the 1600s.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I have learnt that in England in the 1600s, there were two main branches of Christianity: Protestants and Catholics. Queen Elizabeth I and her successor, King James I, were protestants and wanted all their people to be Protestants and because of this Catholics were treated badly in England.

9. Today, people's rights to practice their religion are protected in the UK. Do you think everyone is equal in the UK?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the UK is more tolerant now than it was in the 1600s but there are still many inequalities in our society. People are not physically threatened by the state because of their religion; however, many people suffer in other ways, such as having fewer opportunities because of their religion or heritage.

Bonfire Night

Bonfire Night is an annual event that takes place in the UK on 5th November. This cultural festival commemorates a failed assassination attempt on King James I of England, which aimed to secure improved rights and safety for Catholics in England. Bonfires were lit that first night in 1605 as a joyful celebration of the King being saved but as the years went by, the burning of effigies (straw dummies) representing Guy Fawkes, who was one of the men involved in the plan, became a popular tradition. Nowadays, many people still enjoy celebrating the event by holding or attending large firework displays and bonfires.

The Gunpowder Plot

At the time of the Gunpowder Plot, Catholics were discriminated against in England. Their central act of worship - Mass - was forbidden and their priests were persecuted. After Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603, Catholic people in England were led to believe that although her successor - King James I - was a Protestant, he would be more tolerant of the Catholic faith especially as he had both a Catholic wife and a Catholic mother (Mary, Queen of Scots). However, it soon became apparent that he was no more accepting of Catholic people and their faith than his predecessor had been. Due to the continued bigotry towards Catholics and statements of disgust made by the King about the Catholic faith, many Catholics longed for a change in monarch to allow for a more liberated and equal lifestyle for them and their families.

Devout Catholic Robert Catesby, whose father had been persecuted by Queen Elizabeth I's government for not conforming to the Church of England, was keen to take violent action. In conjunction with Guy Fawkes and a group of equally disaffected and like-minded Catholics, a plan to blow up the Houses of Parliament was formulated. The aim was to assassinate the King along with many of the people who



Bonfire Night



sympathised with his approach to Catholic oppression. Even in planning this crime, the conspirators had perpetrated an act of high treason; high treason is the crime of doing something that could cause danger to your country.

The conspirators hoped to kill the King, his heir and many of the politicians who were supportive of Catholic maltreatment; their objective was to install and detonate a large quantity of gunpowder underneath the Houses of Parliament during the State Opening of Parliament ceremony. The group began making arrangements for their plot to be put into action and were able to rent a cellar directly beneath the Houses of Parliament.



Around a week before Catesby's plan was due to be carried out, Lord Monteaule (a Member of Parliament), receive an anonymous letter warning him not to go to the Houses of Parliament on 5th November; loyal to the crown, he immediately informed the King's advisors. It was believed that a phrase in the letter describing 'a terrible blow to parliament' hinted at the use of fire and gunpowder and an immediate search of the entire building was ordered. During the search, a suspicious man was discovered; he carried a pocket watch, several slow matches (the slow-burning cord or twine fuse used to ignite gunpowder) and touchwood (readily flammable wood used as tinder). This dubious character later revealed himself to be Guy Fawkes. Further investigation in the cellars disclosed 36 barrels of gunpowder hidden under piles of sticks bundled together for use as fuel. He was arrested and taken to the King on the morning of 5th November.

my lord out of the love i beare ~~unto~~ To some of your friends
I have a care of your preservation therfor I would
advise youe as youe tender your life To desist
of your selfe To shift of your attendance at this parliament
for good and man ha the care wrrd To punishe the wickednes
of this lyue and thinke not slightly of this advertisement
but revere your selfe into your countie where youe
have a great the content in safe for the house there be no
appearance of anye stir yet if saye they shall receive a terrible
blowe this parliament and yet they shall not see who
hunts them this countrie is not to be acounted because
it maye do youe good and can do youe no harme for the
dangere is passed as soone as youe have burnt the letter
and i hope god will give youe the grace To make good
use of it To whose gods protection i comend youe
To the right honorable
The lord Monteaule

Following the discovery and subsequent arrest of Guy Fawkes, the rest of the group fled. Guy Fawkes was found guilty of high treason, which is the crime of betraying your country; he was sentenced to a traitor's death along with many of his fellow plotters.



Did you know...?

Guy Fawkes, was originally from York. In recognition of a former resident, no effigies are burned on celebratory bonfires in York still to this day.



The Plotter's Legacy

Each year, on 5th November, the failed gunpowder plot is remembered through the lighting of bonfires and fireworks, which are made using gunpowder. People across the UK remember the night in which a plan to change the course of history was foiled. In order to ensure a similar plot can never be successful, the tradition of searching the cellars beneath the Palace of Westminster prior to the State Opening of the Houses of Parliament continues to this day.



Questions

1. Which of the following is **not** a Bonfire Night tradition? Tick one.

- lighting bonfires
- setting off fireworks
- burning effigies
- searching the cellars of parliament

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

- The plotters rented a cellar under the Houses of Parliament.
- Robert Catesby devised a plan along with his associates.
- Lord Monteaule received an anonymous letter.
- Guy Fawkes was discovered in the cellars with matches and gunpowder.

3. Find and copy one word from the second paragraph that tells you that Catholics were not treated equally at the time of the Gunpowder plot.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Due to the continued _____ towards Catholics and statements of disgust made by the King about the Catholic faith, many Catholics longed for a change in monarch to allow for a more _____ and equal lifestyle for them and their families.

5. Who was King James I's mother?

6. How do you think the UK would be different today if the Gunpowder Plot had been successful?

7. Summarise what you have learnt about rights and equality in England in the early 1600s.

8. Do you think people in the UK today are celebrating the same things as those who lit bonfires on the night of 5th November 1605?

9. Discuss ways in which people can peacefully campaign against inequality.

10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Guy Fawkes was from York.		
The cellars of parliament are no longer searched today.		
Guy Fawkes was the mastermind of the Gunpowder plot.		
An anonymous letter betrayed the plotting group.		
King James I was a Catholic.		

Answers

1. Which of the following is **not** a Bonfire Night tradition? Tick one.

- lighting bonfires
- setting off fireworks
- burning effigies
- searching the cellars of parliament**

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

2 The plotters rented a cellar under the Houses of Parliament.

1 Robert Catesby devised a plan along with his associates.

3 Lord Monteaule received an anonymous letter.

4 Guy Fawkes was discovered in the cellars with matches and gunpowder.

3. Find and copy one word from the second paragraph that tells you that Catholics were not treated equally at the time of the Gunpowder plot.

Accept any of the following: discriminated; persecuted; bigotry.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Due to the continued **bigotry** towards Catholics and statements of disgust made by the King about the Catholic faith, many Catholics longed for a change in monarch to allow for a more **liberated** and equal lifestyle for them and their families.

5. Who was King James I's mother?

King James I's mother was Mary, Queen of Scots.

6. How do you think the UK would be different today if the Gunpowder Plot had been successful?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the UK would be very different because had the plot been successful we could have a very different country. The Kings and Queens we have had would be totally different and we may still have a Catholic monarch now.

7. Summarise what you have learnt about rights and equality in England in the early 1600s.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I have learnt that in the early 1600s there were many injustices between different faiths and that Catholics were treated unfairly because of their religion to such an extreme that people began to plot to try and change things.

8. Do you think people in the UK today are celebrating the same things as those who lit bonfires on the night of 5th November 1605?

Pupils' own responses, such as: No, I think celebrations today are a cultural festival remembering an important event in the history of England rather than celebrating the saving of a king who was encouraging the persecution of Catholics simply because of their faith.

9. Discuss ways in which people can peacefully campaign against inequality.

Pupils' own responses, such as: People can campaign against inequalities by speaking to or writing to their MP, holding protests and marches, signing petitions and spreading awareness of their concerns.

10. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Guy Fawkes was from York.	✓	
The cellars of parliament are no longer searched today.		✓
Guy Fawkes was the mastermind of the Gunpowder plot.		✓
An anonymous letter betrayed the plotting group.	✓	
King James I was a Catholic.		✓

Award 2 marks for all five correct.

Award 1 mark for four correct.