

# Guy Fawkes: Terrorist or Activist?

The **Gunpowder Plot** was the famous attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament and to murder King James 1. The plan was made by a group of Roman Catholic conspirators who were unhappy with the way that Catholics were being treated by the King and the law. They hoped to carry out their plan during the state opening of parliament on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1605. The most famous of the plotters was Guy Fawkes, who is remembered every year on Bonfire Night. Robert Catesby led the group and many more Roman Catholics were involved. The plan failed when Fawkes was caught in the cellars beneath parliament, keeping watch over 36 barrels of gunpowder.



1570	Guy Fawkes was born.
1603	King James I becomes King of England.
1604	Gunpowder plot planned.
1604	Gunpowder smuggled into Parliament.
1605	A letter of warning sent to King James I.
4 <sup>th</sup> November 1605	The King's guards search parliament and arrest Guy Fawkes.
1606	The plotters are found guilty of treason and are executed.
5 <sup>th</sup> November every year.	Bonfire Night is celebrated to mark the failed attempt to kill the King.

Key people	
Robert Catesby	Leader of the group
Thomas Percy	Group member
Francis Tresham	Group member
John and Christopher Wright	Group members. Brothers.
Guy Fawkes	Gunpowder expert.
Thomas Bates	Group member.

Catholic	Christians who follow the Catholic church and the Pope
Protestant (created by Henry 8 <sup>th</sup> !)	Christians who follow the Protestant Church and not the Pope.
The Pope	Leader of the Catholic Church.
Gunpowder	Chemical that explodes.
Monarch	A King or Queen.
Plot	Secret plan
Parliament	A group of people who make the laws.
Treason	Plot against the King or Queen
Executed	Killed as punishment.
Conspirators	People planning something in secret.

Remember Remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November,  
Gunpowder, treason and plot,  
I know no reason why the Gunpowder treason  
should ever be forgot!



PREVIOUS LEARNING LINKS:  
Did Guy Fawkes receive a fair punishment? Y5  
Guy Fawkes, Hero or Villain? Y4  
Tudors. Protestants v Catholics Y3