The Gunpowder Plot

The Gunpowder Plot

The Gunpowder Plot was a plan to blow up the king of England, Members of Parliament and many important people that ran the country at that time.

How the Plan Came to Be

In 1604, England was ruled by King James I. He was not a Catholic and treated Catholics badly. He made new laws against Catholic people, which made them angry.

A Catholic man called Robert Catesby met with two other men in London. Catesby told them he had an idea to get rid of the king and some other important people in parliament.

Gathering the Plotters

One of the plotters, who was called Thomas Wintour, asked Spain if they could help with the plan but they refused.

He soon met Guy Fawkes. Fawkes was an explosives expert. He was a Catholic, who also hated the king. He agreed to help so the two men sailed back to England together.

That night, Wintour and Fawkes met with Catesby and two other men in the Duck and Drake pub in London. They talked about their plot.

Planning

Thomas Percy rented a vault, which was like a cellar, right under the House of Lords. At night, Guy Fawkes hid the barrels of gunpowder in the vault.

The Anonymous Letter

Lord Monteagle was given an anonymous letter, warning him not to go to the opening of Parliament on the 5th November, 1605.

The king was shown the letter and he ordered an investigation. The House of Lords was searched and there in the vault was Guy Fawkes with 36 barrels of gunpowder!

anonymous - The person who wrote the letter did not put their name on it.

The End of the Plot

Most of the other plotters escaped to the Midlands. Catesby, Percy and the Wright brothers were killed in a gunfight. The rest were caught and taken to the Tower of London. They were later executed.

Fawkes was arrested. He was tortured until he told the soldiers everything about the plot. This included the names of the other men involved. Fawkes was also then executed.

The Gunpowder Plot **Questions**

1. What year was the Gunpowder Plot bombing supposed to take place?

2. Why did Catholics not like King James I of England?

3. Who had the idea for the Gunpowder Plot?

4. Where did Thomas Wintour go to ask for help?

5. Name one thing that made Fawkes a good choice for helping the plotters.

6. Where did the plotters meet to discuss the plan?

7. What did Thomas Percy rent the vault for?

8. What word means that Lord Monteagle did not know who sent him the warning letter?

9. What was Guy Fawkes found with when he was arrested?

10. What information did the soldiers want from Guy Fawkes when they questioned him?

The Gunpowder Plot **Answers**

1. What year was the Gunpowder Plot bombing supposed to take place?

   The Gunpowder Plot bombing was supposed to take place in 1605.

2. Why did Catholics not like King James I of England?

   The Catholics did not like King James I because he treated them badly/ made new laws against them.

3. Who had the idea for the Gunpowder Plot?

   Robert Catesby had the idea for the Gunpowder Plot.

4. Where did Thomas Wintour go to ask for help?

   Thomas Wintour asked the Spain to help with the plot.

5. Name one thing that made Fawkes a good choice for helping the plotters.

   Fawkes was a good choice for helping the plotters because he was Catholic/ he hated the king/ he was an explosives expert.

6. Where did the plotters meet to discuss the plan?

   To discuss the plan, the plotters met in a pub in London called the Duck and Drake.

7. What did Thomas Percy rent the vault for?

   Thomas Percy rented the vault so that they could store the barrels of gunpowder.

8. What word means that Lord Monteagle did not know who sent him the warning letter?

   'Anonymous' means that Lord Monteagle did not know who sent him the warning letter.

9. What was Guy Fawkes found with when he was arrested?

   Guy Fawkes was found with 36 barrels of gunpowder when he was arrested.

10. 10. What information did the soldiers want from Guy Fawkes when they questioned him?

    The soldiers wanted Guy Fawkes to tell them everything about the plot and the names of everyone involved.

The Gunpowder Plot

The Gunpowder Plot

The aim of The Gunpowder Plot, which took three years of planning, was to blow up the king of England, Members of Parliament and many important people that ran the country at that time.

So why did a group of thirteen men want to cause such destruction?

How the Plan Came to Be

In 1604, England was ruled by King James I. He was a Protestant but his mother had been a Catholic. For many years, Catholics had been badly treated in England; so when a king whose mother had been Catholic was crowned, the Catholics hoped he would be a little kinder towards them. In fact, he was no better and he passed new laws against Catholics. People began to feel very angry about King James I ruling England.

In February of that year, a man called Robert Catesby met with two other Catholics in London. Catesby told them of his idea. His plan was to get rid of the people that he thought were harming the Catholic religion.

Gathering the Plotters

One of the plotters, who was called Thomas Wintour, travelled to Flanders in Belgium. Flanders was ruled by Spain at the time. Wintour went to ask their Spanish leader if they would help with the plot as the plotters would need money for the plan to work. Spain had been a rival of England for years but at that time there was peace between the two countries. Spain wanted this peace to continue so refused to help.

While Wintour was in Flanders, he met Guy Fawkes. Fawkes was in the military and was an explosives expert. He was a Catholic, who also hated the king. He agreed to help and so the two men sailed back to England together.

That night, Wintour and Fawkes met with Catesby and two other men in the Duck and Drake pub in London. They all swore an oath of secrecy.

Planning

Thomas Percy, who was another plotter, arranged to rent a house very near the House of Lords. This meant the plotters could dig a tunnel from his house right underneath the building.

Percy then managed to rent a vault, which was like a cellar, right under the House of Lords. This meant they no longer had to dig a tunnel. Instead, Guy Fawkes began hiding the barrels of gunpowder in the vault at night.

The Anonymous Letter

On 5th November, Lord Monteagle was due to attend the opening of parliament, but he received an anonymous letter warning him not to go to the ceremony.

The king was shown the letter, who immediately ordered an investigation. The House of Lords was searched and there in the vault was Guy Fawkes with 36 barrels of gunpowder!

anonymous - The person who wrote the letter did not put their name on it.

The End of the Plot

Most of the other plotters escaped to the Midlands. Catesby, Percy and the Wright brothers were killed in a gunfight. The rest were captured and taken to the Tower of London. They were later executed.

Fawkes was arrested and questioned under extreme torture. It took two days for him to eventually confess, and give the names of the other men involved. He was also executed.

The Gunpowder Plot **Questions**

1. Why did the Catholics hope King James I would be kinder towards them?

2. What did King James I do that proved to them he was no better than any other king?

3. When did Robert Catesby first tell others about his idea?

4. Why did Thomas Wintour ask Spain to help with the plot?

5. Name two reasons that Guy Fawkes was a good choice to help the plotters?

6. Why did Thomas Percy rent a house near the House of Lords?

7. What date was Parliament due to open?

8. Why do you think someone sent Lord Monteagle a letter warning him of the danger?

9. How did Catesby die?

10. What adjective does the author use that shows Fawkes would have endured a lot of pain during questioning?

11. What does it mean when it says Fawkes eventually confessed?

The Gunpowder Plot **Answers**

1. Why did the Catholics hope King James I would be kinder towards them?

   The Catholics hoped King James I would be kinder towards them because his mother had been a Catholic.

2. What did King James I do that proved to them he was no better than any other king?

   King James I didn't prove to be any better as he passed new laws against the Catholics.

3. Robert Catesby wanted to get rid of which people for what reason?

   Robert Catesby wanted to get rid of all the people he thought were harming the Catholic religion.

4. Why did Thomas Wintour ask Spain to help with the plot?

   Thomas Wintour asked Spain to help with the plot because the plotters needed money to make their plan work.

5. Name two reasons that Guy Fawkes was a good choice to help the plotters?

   Guy Fawkes was a good choice to help the plotters because he hated the king of England/ he was a Catholic/ he was an explosives expert.

6. Why did Thomas Percy rent a house near the House of Lords?

   Thomas Percy rented a house near the House of Lords so that the plotters could dig a tunnel under the building that they were going to blow up.

7. What date was Parliament due to open?

   Parliament was due to open on 5th November, 1605.

8. Why do you think someone sent Lord Monteagle a letter warning him of the danger?

   Pupil's own response: someone who was a friend of Monteagle might have wanted to keep him safe/ it might have been one of the plotters who had had a change of mind/ someone might have overheard the plotters and wanted to warn someone.

9. How did Catesby die?

   Catesby died in a gunfight.

10. What adjective does the author use that shows Fawkes would have endured a lot of pain during questioning?

    The adjective the author uses that means Fawkes would have endured a lot of pain during questioning, was 'extreme'.

11. What does it mean when it says Fawkes eventually confessed?

    It means that Fawkes eventually told the soldiers everything about the plot and the names of everyone else who was involved.

twinkl Quality Standard Approved

The Gunpowder Plot

The Gunpowder Plot

On 5th November, 1605, there was a planned act of terror like never seen before in England. The plan, which was three years in the making, was to blow up the king of England, Members of Parliament and many important people who ran the country at that time, and possibly cause an outbreak of civil war.

So, why did a group of thirteen men want to cause such destruction?

How the Plan Came to Be

In 1604, England was ruled by King James I, who also happened to be King James VI of Scotland. He was a Protestant, but his mother had been a Catholic. For many previous years, Catholics had been badly treated by the monarchy; so when a king whose mother had been Catholic was crowned, they hoped he would be a little kinder towards people of their religion. In actual fact, King James I made Catholic priests leave the country, and fined people if they did not go to Church of England services! This made Catholics feel very unhappy about King James I ruling England.

In February of that year, a man called Robert Catesby met with his cousin, Thomas Wintour, and friend John Wright in London and he told them of his idea. Catesby felt the King was trying to get rid of the Catholic faith and all Catholics in society. His plan was to 'replant the Catholic faith' by destroying those he believed were harming it.

Gathering the Plotters

Thomas Wintour travelled to Flanders in Belgium, which was ruled by Spain at the time, to ask for help with the plot. Spain had been bitter rivals of England but there had been recently been peace between the two countries. Spain wanted to continue being allies with England so refused to help Wintour.

While Wintour was in Flanders, he met Guy Fawkes. Fawkes was fighting for the Spanish and was an explosives expert. He was a Catholic, who also hated the King. The two men sailed back to England just as King James passed more laws against Catholics.

That night, Wintour and Fawkes met with Catesby and two other men in the Duck and Drake pub in London. They all swore an oath of secrecy.

Planning

Robert Catesby owned a house across the river from the Houses of Parliament and this is where they stored the gunpowder.

Thomas Percy, who was another plotter, arranged to rent a house very near the House of Lords. This meant the plotters could dig a tunnel from his house right underneath the building.

Thomas Percy managed to rent a vault, which was like a cellar, right under the House of Lords. This meant they no longer had to dig a tunnel. Under the cover of darkness, Guy Fawkes began hiding the barrels of gunpowder in the vault.

The Anonymous Letter

Lord Monteagle was due to attend the opening of parliament on 5th November. He received an anonymous letter, which warned him not to go to the ceremony.

Robert Catesby accused one of the plotters of sending the letter but he denied it. Some of his co-conspirators did try to persuade Catesby to give up on the plan, but he refused.

The king was shown the letter, who immediately ordered an investigation. The House of Lords was searched and there in the vault was Guy Fawkes with 36 barrels of gunpowder and matches in his possession.

The End of the Plot

Most of the other plotters escaped to the Midlands. Catesby, Percy and the Wright brothers were killed in a gunfight. The rest were wounded but captured and taken to the Tower of London. They were later executed.

Fawkes was arrested and questioned under extreme torture. It took two days for him to eventually confess and give the names of the other men involved. Eventually, he was also executed.

The Gunpowder Plot **Questions**

1. In your own words, explain what the Gunpowder Plot was aiming to achieve.

2. Why did the Catholics not like King James I? Explain your answer.

3. When did Robert Catesby first tell others about his idea?

4. What does 'replant the Catholic faith' mean?

5. Why did the Spanish not agree to help with the plot?

6. Why do you think Catesby's men 'swore an oath to secrecy'?

7. How did the practical arrangements of the plan change?

twinkl Quality Standard Approved

8. Why do you think the barrels of gunpowder were hidden ‘under the cover of darkness’?

9. Why do you think the letter to Lord Monteagle was sent anonymously?

10. Explain in your own words, why you think Catesby would not be persuaded to give up on his plan.

11. What made Guy Fawkes look guilty when he was found in the vault?

12. Why do you think that Fawkes did not confess straight away?

The Gunpowder Plot **Answers**

1. In your own words, explain what the Gunpowder Plot was aiming to achieve.

   Pupil's own response based on: trying to kill the king of England/ cause a civil war/ get rid of the Protestants in charge of the country/ gain better treatment for Catholics.

2. Why did the Catholics not like King James I? Explain your answer.

   The Catholics did not like King James because he treated Catholics badly. He made the priests leave the country and he fined people that did not go to Church of England services.

3. When did Robert Catesby first tell others about his idea?

   Robert Catesby first told others about his idea in February 1604.

4. What does 'replant the Catholic faith' mean?

   Pupil's own response: bring back the Catholic faith/ restore the Catholic faith/ make it acceptable to be a Catholic in England.

5. Why did the Spanish not agree to help with the plot?

   The Spanish did not agree to help blow with the plot because there was peace between the two countries after years of being bitter rivals.

6. Why do you think Catesby's men 'swore an oath to secrecy'?

   Pupil's own response: they knew it was illegal and dangerous/ they knew they would be put to death if found out/ they needed to trust one another.

7. How did the practical arrangements of the plan change?

   The practical arrangements changed when Thomas Percy rented a vault beneath the House of Lords and they no longer needed to dig a tunnel but instead could store the gunpowder directly beneath the building.

8. Why do you think the barrels of gunpowder were hidden 'under the cover of darkness'?

   I think the barrels of gunpowder were hidden 'under the cover of darkness' because Fawkes did not want to be seen, and it was dangerous to move barrels of gunpowder during the day.

9. Why do you think the letter to Lord Monteagle was sent anonymously?

   Pupil's own response: because whoever sent it did not want anyone to know who they were/ the person who sent it would be arrested/ the person who sent it might have been one of the plotters and the other plotters would be very angry at them.

10. Explain in your own words, why you think Catesby would not be persuaded to give up on his plan.

    Pupil's own response: it had taken him three years to plan/ he hated the king so much that he wanted him dead/ he was a determined man, who wanted a change for Catholics/ he was stubborn.

11. What made Guy Fawkes look guilty when he was found in the vault?

    When Fawkes was found in the vault he looked guilty because he had 36 barrels of gunpowder and some matches in his possession.

12. Why do you think that Fawkes did not confess straight away?

    Fawkes did not confess straight away because he had sworn a secrecy oath/ he was loyal to the other plotters/ he did not want the soldiers to capture the others/ he wanted to give the plotters a chance to escape.

twinkl Quality Standard Approved