

JAMES I AND THE GUNPOWDER PLOT



Key Vocabulary

CATHOLICS - Members of the Catholic Church

CONSPIRATORS - A person who does something illegal or harmful

PROTESTANTS - Christians who are not Catholic

PLOT - A secret plan to do something that is illegal or wrong

TREASON - Wanting to kill or get rid of the King/Queen

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT - The building where the government meets

Key people

Guy Fawkes
Thomas Percy
Robert Catesby
The Wright Brothers
Lord Monteagle
Robert Cecil
James I



Fun Fact

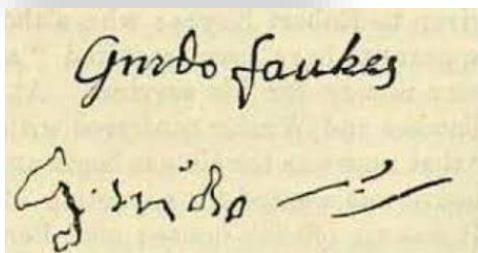
In a shoot-out between some of the plotters and the King's troops, both Robert Catesby and Thomas Percy were killed by the same bullet passing through both their bodies!

Key Knowledge

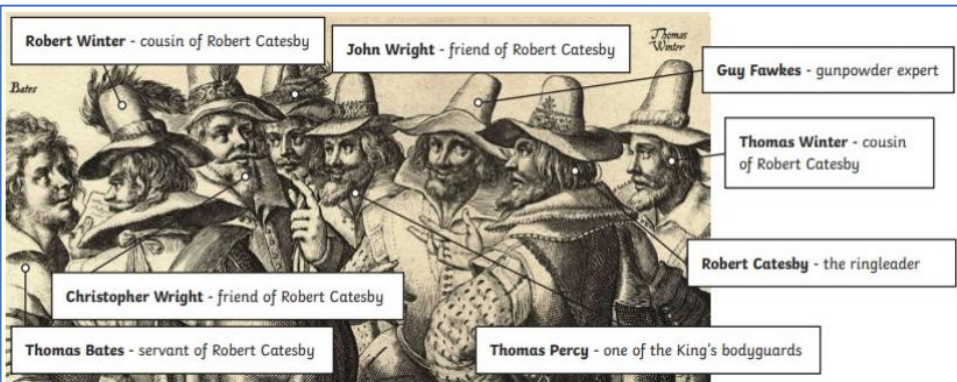
- In 1605, there were laws passed against people who were Catholic. King James even ordered Catholic priests to leave England or face execution. A small group of Catholics decided that they wanted James dead. They hoped a new king or queen would treat them better.
- The plot was to blow up the King during the opening Parliament on 5th November 1605.
- Their leader was Robert Catesby, who was a devout Catholic. He was joined by Guy Fawkes, an experienced soldier who was used to handling explosives. He would be responsible for lighting the gunpowder to be placed under Parliament.
- On 26th October 1605 a mysterious letter arrived at the house of a man named Lord Monteagle. The note contained a warning for him not to attend Parliament. The letter was given to Robert Cecil who gave it to the King.
- Just after midnight on 5th November the cellars below the Houses of Parliament were searched and a man claiming to be called John Johnson was found with matches and a tinderbox.
- The king ordered him to be taken to the Tower of London and questioned.
- After two days of torture on the rack he gave his real name as Guido Fawkes. After another two days he told his torturers that he was planning to blow up the Houses of Parliament and after six days, he named the other plotters.
- After a quick trial, the plotters were sentenced to death. They were dragged through the streets of London, hung until they were nearly dead, cut down, cut open and their insides were pulled out and burned on a fire in front of them.

Key places

London
Houses of Parliament
Tower of London
Westminster Hall



Guy Fawkes' signature before and after torture



Key concepts: Knowledge and Understanding - Cause and effect - Significance - Evidence - Sources