

The Gunpowder Plot

WORKSHEET A

In November 1605, a group of thirteen men almost succeeded in a dramatic plan to kill 1)_____ by blowing up the Houses of Parliament in London. Their plan, known as the 'Gunpowder Plot', was to destroy Parliament by exploding 36 barrels of gunpowder that they had stored in a cellar underneath the building.

The plot was a result of 3)_____ in England in the early 17th century. The plotters were Catholics who were angry with King James I, a Protestant, because of the anti-Catholic laws he had introduced.

The explosion was planned for November 5, when not only King James but also most of England's Protestant aristocracy would be attending Parliament. By murdering them the plotters hoped to cause a 5)_____ and put a Catholic monarch on the English throne.

The plotters were careful, but eventually made a mistake. They felt bad about the fact that some of the people who would be in Parliament on November 5 were Catholics, and one of them, Lord Monteagle, was actually the brother-in-law of 7)_____. Tresham wrote an anonymous letter to Lord Monteagle, advising him to stay away from Parliament on November 5 because those who attended were 'going to receive a terrible blow, and yet shall not see who hurts them'.

Lord Monteagle was suspicious, and showed the letter to the authorities. Soldiers searched all the cellars under the Houses of Parliament on the night of November 4, and not only discovered the gunpowder but also one of the plotters, Guy Fawkes, who was carrying 9)_____. They arrested him immediately. The authorities wanted to know who else was involved in the plot, so Fawkes was taken to the Tower of London and tortured until he revealed the names of the other conspirators.

The authorities also found out where the plotters were hiding, and sent soldiers there to arrest them. In the fight that followed, four of them were shot dead. The rest 11)_____ on January 31st 1606.

The events of November 1605 began a British tradition that has continued to the present day. The night of November 5th is called ‘Guy Fawkes Night’, and in British towns and villages it is still celebrated by 13)_____. Indeed, many people refer to the celebrations event as ‘Bonfire Night’ or ‘Fireworks Night’. On top of the bonfires there is always a ‘guy’, which means an effigy of Guy Fawkes. Nowadays, however, Guy Fawkes Night doesn’t have any real political or religious meaning – it’s just an opportunity to socialise outside on a winter evening, which is unusual in Britain!

In November 2005, on the 400th anniversary of the plot, scientists working a British television programme carried out as a spectacular test using 15)_____ and the same amount of gunpowder that the plotters had planned to use in 1605. When the scientists exploded the gunpowder, the replica building was completely destroyed. Indeed, the explosion was so powerful that everyone within 100 metres of it would have been killed, and so loud that everyone living in London in 1605 would have heard it.

Part A

Write the questions:

1. Who _____?
3. What _____?
5. What _____?
7. Whose _____?
9. What _____?
11. What happened _____?
13. How _____?
15. What _____?

The Gunpowder Plot

WORKSHEET B

In November 1605, a group of thirteen men almost succeeded in a dramatic plan to kill the king of England by blowing up the Houses of Parliament in London. Their plan, known as the 'Gunpowder Plot', was to destroy Parliament by
2) _____ that they had stored in a cellar underneath the building.

The plot was a result of religious tension in England in the early 17th century. The plotters were Catholics who were angry with King James I, a Protestant, because
4) _____.

The explosion was planned for November 5, when not only King James but also most of England's Protestant aristocracy would be attending Parliament. By murdering them the plotters hoped to cause a revolution and put a Catholic monarch on the English throne.

The plotters were careful, but eventually made a mistake. They felt bad about
6) _____, and one of them, Lord Monteagle, was actually the brother-in-law of Francis Tresham, one of the plotters. Tresham wrote an anonymous letter to Lord Monteagle, advising him to
8) _____ because those who attended were 'going to receive a terrible blow, and yet shall not see who hurts them'.

Lord Monteagle was suspicious, and showed the letter to the authorities. Soldiers searched all the cellars under the Houses of Parliament on the night of November 4, and not only discovered the gunpowder but also one of the plotters, Guy Fawkes, who was carrying a set of fuses. They arrested him immediately.

The authorities wanted to know who else was involved in the plot, so Fawkes was taken to 10) _____ and tortured until he revealed the names of the other conspirators.

The authorities also found out where the plotters were hiding, and sent soldiers there to arrest them. In the fight that followed, four of them were shot dead. The rest were executed, along with Guy Fawkes, on January 31st 1606.

The events of November 1605 began a British tradition that has continued to the present day. The night of November 5th is called 12) _____, and in British towns and villages it is still celebrated by lighting a huge bonfire and setting off fireworks. Indeed, many people refer to the celebrations event as ‘Bonfire Night’ or ‘Fireworks Night’. On top of the bonfires there is always a ‘guy’, which means an effigy of Guy Fawkes. Nowadays, however, Guy Fawkes Night doesn’t have 14) _____ – it’s just an opportunity to socialise outside on a winter evening, which is unusual in Britain!

In November 2005, on the 400th anniversary of the plot, scientists working a British television programme carried out a spectacular test using a replica of the 17th century Houses of Parliament and the same amount of gunpowder that the plotters had planned to use in 1605. When the scientists exploded the gunpowder, the replica building was completely destroyed. Indeed, the explosion was so powerful that 16) _____ would have been killed, and so loud that everyone living in London in 1605 would have heard it.

Part A

Write the questions:

2. How _____ ?
4. Why _____ ?
6. What _____ ?
8. What _____ ?
10. Where _____ ?
12. What _____ ?
14. What _____ ?
16. Who _____ ?

The Gunpowder Plot

Part B

In November 1605, a group of thirteen men almost succeeded in a dramatic plan to kill the king of England by 1) **b** _____ up the Houses of Parliament in London. Their plan, known as the ‘Gunpowder Plot’, was to destroy Parliament by exploding 36 barrels of gunpowder that they had stored in a 2) _____ **ar** underneath the building.

The plot was a result of religious tension in England in the early 17th century. The plotters were Catholics who were angry with King James I, a 3) **P** _____ **t**, because of the anti-Catholic laws he had introduced.

The explosion was planned for November 5, when not only King James but also most of England’s Protestant 4) **ar** _____ would be attending Parliament. By murdering them the plotters hoped to cause a revolution and put a Catholic 5) _____ **ch** on the English throne.

The plotters were careful, but 6) **e** _____ **ly** made a mistake. They felt bad about the fact that some of the people who would be in Parliament on November 5 were Catholics, and one of them, Lord Monteagle, was actually the 7) _____ - _____ of Francis Tresham, one of the plotters. Tresham wrote an anonymous letter to Lord Monteagle, advising him to stay away from Parliament on November 5 because those who attended were ‘going to receive a terrible blow, and yet shall not see who hurts them’.

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