

Bonfire night

When Guy Fawkes was a boy he lived near York with his father Edward and his mother Edith. Guy's father was a Protestant, but in 1579 Guy's father died and 3 years later his mother remarried a Catholic man and so the young Guy converted. In 1592 he enlisted in the Catholic Spanish army. In 1604 Guy met another Englishman called Thomas Winter, who had also been in Spain trying to drum up support for English Catholics and the two travelled back to London together.

Back in London, Guy was introduced to Robert Catesby the mastermind of a group of rebels. Robert asked Guy to join his group as the explosives expert. Over the next few months Robert pulled together the rest of the team while he devised his plot to blow up Parliament and kill King James, many politicians and bishops.

The plan took many months to carry out. They had to secretly transfer barrels of gunpowder into a vault under parliament. Guy volunteered to check that the gunpowder hadn't been discovered and he went down by himself into the vault on the 4th November 1605, armed with a fuse. The King ordered a search of the vaults, the gunpowder was found and Guy arrested.

Guy was taken to the Queen's House at the Tower of London and interrogated for days. Guy and his co-conspirators were brought to trial and on the 31st of January 1606 Guy and three others were dragged from the Tower on wooden stretchers to the palace at Westminster where the 4 climbed up on the scaffold and were hung. Their bodies were then cut into 4 pieces and displayed for all to see.

This is why we remember the Gunpowder Plot every year on the 5th of November and with our bonfires and fireworks remember that Guy and his co-conspirators did not manage to blow up the parliament over 400 years ago.



Now answer these questions.

1. What was the name of Guy's father? _____
2. Where did Guy live? _____
3. When did Guy meet Thomas Winter? _____
4. What did Guy enlist in? _____
5. What happened in 1606? _____
6. Who ordered the vaults to be searched? _____
7. What happened on the 4th of November? _____
8. What is a scaffold? _____
9. What did Robert do? _____
10. In what year did Guy's mum remarry? _____

