

Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot

November 5th is celebrated in England as Guy Fawkes Day or Bonfire Night. If you want to learn more about this day and its origin complete the following text with the right word from the box.

barrels – bonfires – cellar – conspirators – fanatic – fireworks – floor – gunpowder – Houses – innocent – kill – laws – letter – life – mother – nations – oppressors – Palace – plot – reign – rights – royal – safety – searched – session – stronger – successor – threatened – throne – tortured – violence – warning

On November 5th, 1605 a group of _____ attempted to blow up the _____ of Parliament, meeting in the Palace of Westminster.

What had happened?

Queen Elizabeth I, who came to the English _____ in 1558, had made England one of Europe's strongest Protestant _____, and under her reign English Catholics had often suffered from her anti-Catholic _____. When she died in 1603, Catholics hoped that her _____, James I, would relax these laws because his _____ was a Catholic. So he did in the beginning of his _____, but when the Catholics got _____ he felt his power _____ by them and, therefore, brought back the anti-Catholic laws.



Robert Catesby, a Catholic _____, and a group of young men decided that _____ was the only way to defend the Catholics' _____. Together they made plans to get rid of their _____. Blowing up the Houses of Parliament during the opening _____ seemed to be an appropriate action. In this way they would _____ not only James I but all those who were making _____ difficult for them. To do so they intended to bring _____ of gunpowder into the cellar below the _____ where the members of parliament usually met. Guy Fawkes was chosen to hide in the _____ and ignite the gunpowder on the day of the opening of parliament. However, when they were working out their _____, it became clear to them that Catholics and _____ and more tolerant people would also be killed. One of the conspirators even sent a _____ to his friend, Lord Monteagle, telling him not to come to the parliament session on November 5th. As it happened, the King read this _____ letter and ordered his forces to stop the attack. Early in the morning of November 5th, his men _____ the cellar and found Guy Fawkes with the barrels of _____. He was caught, _____ and executed. So were the other conspirators. _____ were lit to celebrate the failure of the plot and the _____ of the King.

Today this event is commemorated every year on November 5th with _____ and bonfires. Effigies of Guy Fawkes are made and burnt on these bonfires. And before a new parliament is opened, the Yeomen of the Guard – as the _____ guards are called – still search the cellars of the _____ of Westminster.

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Lösung:

On November 5, 1605 a group of conspirators attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament, meeting in the Palace of Westminster.

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Queen Elizabeth I, who came to the English throne in 1558, had made England one of Europe's strongest Protestant nations, and under her reign English Catholics had often suffered from her anti-Catholic laws. When she died in 1603, Catholics hoped that her successor, James I, would relax these laws because his mother was a Catholic. So he did in the beginning of his reign, but when the Catholics got stronger he felt his power threatened by them and, therefore, brought back the anti-Catholic laws.

Robert Catesby, a Catholic fanatic, and a group of young men decided that violence was the only way to defend the Catholics' rights. Together they made plans to get rid of their oppressors. Blowing up the Houses of Parliament during the opening session seemed to be an appropriate action. In this way they would kill not only James I but all those who were making life difficult for them. To do so they intended to bring barrels of gunpowder into the cellar below the floor where the members of parliament usually met. Guy Fawkes was chosen to hide in the cellar and ignite the gunpowder on the day of the opening of parliament. However, when they were working out their plot, it became clear to them that Catholics and innocent and more tolerant people would also be killed. One of the conspirators even sent a letter to his friend, Lord Monteagle, telling him not to come to the parliament session on November 5th. As it happened, the King read this warning letter and ordered his forces to stop the attack. Early in the morning of November 5th, his men searched the cellar and found Guy Fawkes with the barrels of gunpowder. He was caught, tortured and executed. So were the other conspirators. Bonfires were lit to celebrate the failure of the plot and the safety of the King.

Today this event is commemorated every year on November 5th with fireworks and bonfires. Effigies of Guy Fawkes are made and burnt on these bonfires. And before a new parliament is opened, the Yeomen of the Guard – as the royal guards are called – still search the cellars of the Palace of Westminster.