

1. The Gunpowder Plot

Exactly four hundred years ago, a group of 13 committed men devised a plan to blow up the British Parliament, killing the king and all the politicians: something we may all have been tempted to try. However, these men may have succeeded in their dastardly plot had it not been for one man who just couldn't keep a secret... Read all about it in this week's worksheet.

Level

Good Intermediate upwards

How to use the lesson

1. Give one copy of Worksheet A to each student in the class. Focus their attention on the newspaper story on the left-hand side. Give students a couple of minutes to read through the story and answer the question in 1. (*Answer:* He (and his friends) wanted to blow up the King and the Government).

2. Direct students' attention to the questions on the right of the page. Ask them to read the questions. Give out Worksheet B and ask them to work in pairs to find the answers to the questions.

3. Check answers in open class.

Answers to 2.

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| 1. Guy Fawkes | 8. Four were shot. The rest were hanged. |
| 2. York | 9. Families build bonfires, light fireworks and eat potatoes and sausages. |
| 3. 36 | 10. A model of Guy Fawkes, which is burned on a bonfire. |
| 4. Robert Catesby | |
| 5. Francis Tresham | |
| 6. 13 | |
| 7. They were captured | |

Follow up

Use the links below to create a project about Guy Fawkes. The burning of bonfires is also connected to the Celtic origins of Halloween; your students may like to make a joint presentation of the origins of the two festivals.

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.bonfire.org/guy/index.php>

Tells the whole story.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/games/gunpowder/index.shtml>

Play the game. By answering the questions correctly, you can save the government! Mmm...

<http://www.cyberwitch.com/Wychwood/Temple/hallows.htm>

According to this, Bonfire Night is just Samhain (Celtic end-of-summer festival) in disguise.