Key Stage 1: History | **Title of Topic: The Gun Powder Plot** | **Term: Autumn 2026**

National Curriculum: History

Develop an awareness of the past, using common words and phrases relating to the passing of time. Know where the people and events they study fit within a chronological framework and identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods. Use a wide vocabulary of everyday historical terms. Ask and answer questions, choosing and using parts of stories and other sources to show that they know and understand key features of events. Understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past and identify different ways in which it is represented.

Pupils should be taught about:

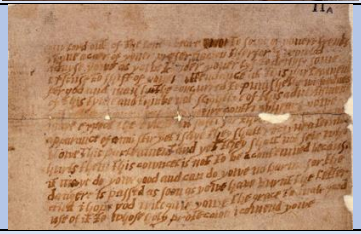
- events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally [for example, the gun powder plot.
- the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements.
- compare aspects of life in different periods e.g. Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong, Amelia Earhart and Edmund Hillary.
- significant historical events, people and places in their own locality.

Artefacts

Houses of Parliament

Lantern used by Guy Fawkes

Gunpowder barrels



Letter to Lord Monteagle

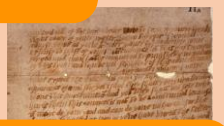
Donington Manor - home of Sir Everard Digby, situated in Coalville.

Cause and Effect

What was life like for Catholics in 1605?

What role did Robert Catesby and Everard Digby play in the Gunpowder plot?

Why did the Gunpowder plot fail?



How do we remember the Gunpowder Plot?

Vocabulary

Houses of Parliament: The building where you will find the House of Commons and the House of Lords.
Bonfire night: a celebration that takes place on the 5th November, usually involving a large fire and fireworks.
Fireworks: explosives that make interesting patterns in the night sky.
Letter: a written message that can be handwritten or printed on paper.
Lantern: a lamp with a transparent case protecting a flame.
Gunpowder: a black powder that explodes when introduced to fire.
Barrel: a wooden cylinder designed to hold various things including gun powder.
Plot: a plan made in secret by a group of people to do something illegal or harmful.
London: the capital city of London.
Execution: the carrying out of a sentence of death on a condemned person.
Traitor: a person who betrays someone.
Catholic: A Catholic is a Christian who follows the Catholic religion as transmitted through the succession of Popes.
Guard: a person who keeps watch, especially a soldier or other person assigned to protect a person or to control access to a place.

Key Stage 1: History | Title of Topic: The Gunpowder Plot | Term: Autumn 2026

Key Learning: When did this event happen? Beyond Living Memory - 1605 - over 350 years ago.

1	**What was life like for Catholics in 1605?** In 1605, James I did not like people being Catholic in England. He was a Protestant; it became against the law to practice Catholicism in England during his reign. Catholics that were brave enough to continue their practice had to hide their faith. If caught, they were put to death.
2	**What role did Robert Catesby and Everard Digby play in the Gunpowder plot?** A group of men, led by Robert Catesby became involved in a plot to kill King James I. The young Catholic men met to talk about their worries and how angry they were that King James I was punishing Catholic people in England. They knew that the King opened Parliament every year. They decided to blow up the Houses of Parliament whilst the king was inside.
3	**Who was Guy Fawkes?** A group of men, led by Robert Catesby, wanted Guy Fawkes to be involved partly because he understood how to use gunpowder, which is very explosive and dangerous. They plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament whilst the King was in attendance.
4	**Why did the Gunpowder Plot fail and what happened after?** A few days before the plotters were ready to carry out their plan, a mysterious stranger gave a letter to Lord Monteagle, who was the brother-in-law of one of the plotters. It warned him not to go to Parliament on November 5th, as something very bad was to happen. Guy Fawkes was found hiding with the gunpowder in the cellar of the Houses of Parliament. Guy Fawkes was captured and executed. The King searched for Thomas Percy (his guard and one of the plotters), and any others involved in the plot.
5	**What were the sequence of events involved in the Gunpowder plot?** • Robert Catesby Starts the Plot • Gunpowder in the Cellar • Lord Monteagle's Letter • Guy Fawkes in the Cellar • The Search for the Plotters
6	**How is the Gunpowder plot remembered?** Bonfire night on the 5th November. Every year, we burn bonfires and put a model of Guy Fawkes on top. We light fireworks and sparklers to celebrate the failure of the gunpowder plot.

Key people:

Guy Fawkes

Robert Catesby

Thomas Percy

King James I

Lord Monteagle