



Reading

Guy Fawkes was a British soldier who is best known for his role in the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. The plot was an attempt to assassinate King James I of England by blowing up the Houses of Parliament. Fawkes was a devout Catholic who was angered by the persecution of Catholics in England. He joined a group of Catholic conspirators led by Robert Catesby, who planned to restore a Catholic monarch to the throne.

Reading

Fawkes was chosen for his military experience and his ability to handle explosives. He was tasked with planting 36 barrels of gunpowder beneath the House of Lords. However, the plot was discovered when an anonymous letter warned authorities about the plan. Fawkes was arrested on November 5, 1605, while guarding the explosives. He was tortured and confessed to his role in the plot.

Reading

Fawkes was sentenced to be hanged, drawn, and quartered, a gruesome form of execution. However, he died when his neck was broken as he was hanged. Some sources claim that he deliberately jumped to avoid the agony of the rest of the sentence. The Gunpowder Plot failed, but it became a significant event in British history.

Reading

Today, Guy Fawkes Day is celebrated in the United Kingdom on November 5th. The day is marked by bonfires, fireworks, and the burning of effigies of Fawkes. The celebration has become a tradition that commemorates the failure of the Gunpowder Plot and the survival of King James I. The Guy Fawkes mask, which is a stylized version of Fawkes' face, has become a symbol of rebellion and protest around the world. It was popularized by the 2005 film "V for Vendetta," which featured a masked vigilante who fought against an oppressive government.

Review Vocabulary

Vocabulary Term	Definition	Example Sentence
assassinate	To kill someone, especially a famous or important person, for political reasons.	The group of rebels planned to assassinate the king and take over the country.
persecution	The act of treating someone unfairly or cruelly because of their beliefs or race.	The persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany was a terrible crime against humanity.
conspirators	People who secretly plan to do something illegal or harmful.	The conspirators met in a secret location to discuss their plans to overthrow the government.
gruesome	Very unpleasant and shocking, especially because it involves violence or death.	The gruesome details of the crime made the news report very disturbing.
commemorates	To remember and celebrate a person or event.	The annual parade commemorates the victory of the soldiers in the war.

Multiple Choice Question

1. What was the main goal of the Gunpowder Plot?

- A) To overthrow the government and establish a new religion.
- B) To assassinate King James I and restore a Catholic monarch to the throne.
- C) To protest against the persecution of Catholics in England.
- D) To scare the king into giving Catholics more rights.

Multiple Choice Question

2. Why was Guy Fawkes chosen to be part of the Gunpowder Plot?

- A) He was a skilled soldier and knew how to handle explosives.
- B) He was a close friend of Robert Catesby.
- C) He was a strong believer in the Catholic faith.
- D) He was a skilled politician who could influence the king.

Multiple Choice Question

3. What happened to Guy Fawkes after he was arrested?

- A) He was released after a short trial.
- B) He was exiled to a foreign country.
- C) He was tortured and confessed to his role in the plot.
- D) He was immediately executed without a trial.

Short Answer Question

1. What was the name of the group of Catholic conspirators that Guy Fawkes joined?

Short Answer Question

2. What was the purpose of the anonymous letter that warned authorities about the Gunpowder Plot?

Short Answer Question

3. How is Guy Fawkes Day celebrated in New Zealand?

Open Ended Question

1. Imagine you are living in England in 1605. How would you feel about the Gunpowder Plot? Would you support Guy Fawkes and the conspirators, or would you be loyal to the king? Explain your reasoning.

Open Ended Question

2. The text mentions that the Guy Fawkes mask has become a symbol of rebellion and protest. Think about a time when you felt like you needed to stand up for something you believed in. What did you do, and how did it make you feel?

Open Ended Question

3. The Gunpowder Plot was a dangerous and risky attempt to change the course of history. Have you ever taken a risk to achieve something you wanted? What was the risk, and what was the outcome?