**Information About Guy Fawkes (Lesson 1)**

Guy Fawkes was a British soldier who was involved in a plan to attack the Parliament and King [**James I**](https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/James-I/476283). The plan was known as the [**Gunpowder Plot**](https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Gunpowder-Plot/476268). Fawkes and the others were stopped before they could carry out the plan. Today in Britain people remember the failure of the plot by celebrating [**Guy Fawkes Day**](https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Guy-Fawkes-Day/490036) on November 5.

Fawkes was born in York, England, in 1570. He belonged to an important Yorkshire family. As a young man he became a Roman Catholic.

At the time, there were many conflicts between Protestants and Roman Catholics. The Protestant Church of England was the official religion, and Roman Catholics felt that they were mistreated by the government. Fawkes left England in 1593 to join the army of Spain in the Netherlands. Spain was a Catholic country. In the Netherlands he won a reputation for great courage.

In England at this time a man named Robert Catesby and a small band of Catholics began to plan an attack on the government. They knew about Fawkes and in 1604 asked him to return to England to help them.

The plotters rented a cellar under the palace, and Fawkes planted many barrels of gunpowder there. But the plot was discovered. Fawkes was arrested on November 4, 1605—the day before the attack was to take place. He and the other members of the plot were executed opposite the Parliament building in January 1606.

* He took part in the **Gunpowder Plot** of 1605.
* The plot tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament to kill King James I and his government.
* The plotters were discovered and captured on **November 5th**. This led to celebrations known as ‘Bonfire Night’, which still happens nowadays.
* Guy Fawkes was born in **York** in 1570.
* Some of his school friends were also involved in the Gunpowder Plot.
* He became a **Catholic** and fought for the **Spanish army**.
* In November 1605 he and a group of plotters tried to blow up Parliament and King James I. They used **36 barrels of gunpowder**.
* Guy Fawkes was not the leader of the Gunpowder Plot - that was **Robert Catesby**. There were 13 people involved.
* He liked being called **'Guido Fawkes'**.
* He gave a false name when he was captured - ‘John Johnson.’
* On bonfire night, children sometimes **make a ‘guy’** to put on the bonfire. They do this by stuffing old clothes with straw.