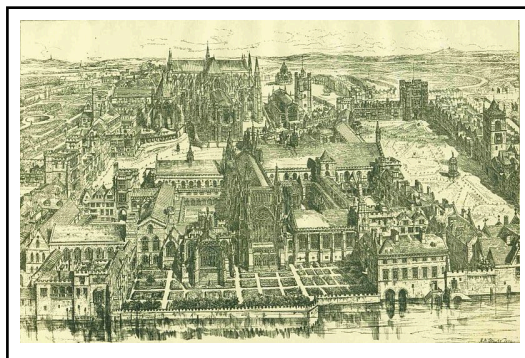


The Gunpowder Plot Worksheet

This worksheet is about the Gunpowder Plot, and will help you answer the question: **Why would someone want to blow up Parliament in 1605?**

Starter Task: Parliament in 1605

Parliament had two parts: the **House of Commons**, which is made up of elected MPs (although in 1605 mostly only wealthy men could vote), and the **House of Lords**, which is made up of unelected nobles and bishops. Parliament had two main jobs: making laws and approving new taxes that would go to the Crown. By the 17th century Parliament was demanding more of a say in how England was run and would often refuse to approve new taxes if they disagreed with what the Crown was doing. This annoyed **James I**, who would sometimes close down Parliament if they disagreed with him. In the 17th century Parliament could only meet if the king requested them to. This meant there could often be many years between meetings of Parliament.



Parliament is based in **Westminster**, which is in Central London. In 1605 the place it was based was a former royal palace made up of lots of different buildings. Parts of it were rented out to local businesses. (Parliament now meets in a different building on the same location, which was built in the 19th century after the old building burned down in 1834.)

Answer the following questions, using full sentences, in your books:

1. What were the two parts of Parliament and what were Parliament's two main jobs?
2. Why might James I and Parliament sometimes clash?
3. Where was Parliament located and what type of building did it meet in?

Challenge: What are three differences between Parliament now and in 1605?

Introduction Task: Who had James I annoyed?

Person/Group:	Why they had a problem with James I:	How serious was disagreement? (mark out of 5)
Catholics (about 10-15% of English population)	James I did not allow Catholics to worship as they wished. He had ordered all Catholic priests to leave England and had made Catholics who refused to attend the Church of England (which was Protestant) pay fines or face prison.	
Puritans (about 10% of English population)	James I had not changed the Church of England enough for Puritans who wanted it to be completely reformed - however, James I did mostly leave Puritans alone and allow them to worship as they wished.	
Members of Parliament (there were about 300)	James I had tried to claim that the Crown was more powerful than Parliament, and publicly criticised MPs for challenging him.	
Anna of Denmark (James I's wife)	She thought James I drunk too much wine and spent too much time hunting. They lived in separate palaces and did not see each other very much (although James I continued to give Anna money).	
Robert Cecil (James I's top advisor)	James I would often tease him for being short (Cecil was 5 feet tall) and call him 'little beagle' - however, James gave Cecil a lot of power and trusted him a lot.	

Instructions:

1. Read through the list of people and groups James I had annoyed since becoming King of England in 1603.
2. For each one give a mark out of 5 for how serious their problems with James I were (1=a problem that can be solved and 5=a very serious one that's difficult to solve).
3. Which person/group did you think was most annoyed with James I? Write a sentence in your books saying they were annoyed with him. (Sentence starter: I think that ... was most annoyed with James I because...')
4. Which person/group do you think James I should have been most worried about annoying? Write a sentence in your books saying who they were and why in your own words. (Sentence starter: I think that James I should have been most worried about... because...')

Challenge: Why do you think religious matters were so important to people in the 17th century? (1-3 sentences)

Main Task: The Events of the Gunpowder Plot

As you may have found out from the previous task, many **Catholics** in England were annoyed at James I. Most of them wanted to be left in peace and carry on with their lives but some of them decided that James I should no longer be king and that someone who was more supportive of their right to worship as they wished should replace him.

Instructions:

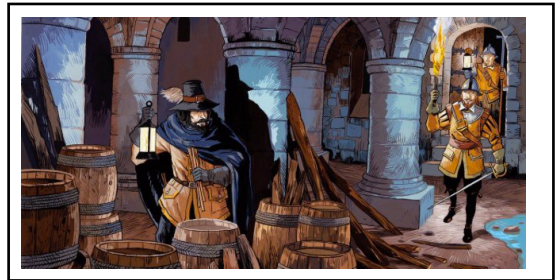
1. Read the following paragraphs.
2. Complete the tasks underneath them in your books (sentence starters are included you want to use them)

When James I became King of England on **24 March 1603** religion was a big problem. James was a Protestant but because his mother **Mary, Queen of Scots** had been a Catholic many English Catholics hoped that James would support them, and allow them to worship freely, as when **Elizabeth I** was queen, Catholics had to worship in secret. James didn't support the Catholics and ordered all Catholic priests leave England, as well as fine and imprison Catholics who didn't go to Church of England services on Sundays.



As a result, some Catholics begin plotting against James. In **Summer 1603** there were two plots against James but both of them failed after royal officials found out what they were doing. In **May 1604** a group of 13 Catholics began a plot to kill James when he came to visit Parliament. It was led by **Robert Catesby**. Their plan was to blow up Parliament with gunpowder and then make James I's daughter **Elizabeth** (who was 9 - she is pictured on the left) Queen and bring her up a Catholic. On **25 March 1605** the plotters rented a cellar underneath the House of Lords in Westminster, which they filled with 36 barrels of gunpowder that they would ignite when James I visited Parliament later that year, hoping to create a big explosion that would kill him along with many of England's most important nobles.

The plotter given the dangerous task of lighting the gunpowder was **Guy Fawkes** - he had been given the job because he used to be a soldier. The plot began to go wrong when an important man called **Lord Monteagle** received an **anonymous** (meaning it did not say who sent it) letter on **26 October 1605** warning him not to go to Parliament. Monteagle was worried and showed the letter to **Robert Cecil** (the most important royal advisor) who showed the letter to James I. On **4 November 1605** James I (the day before he was supposed to visit Parliament) ordered a search of Parliament to be made and just after midnight on **5 November 1605** Fawkes was found in the cellar with the gunpowder, arrested and taken to the Tower of London.



James I demanded the names of the other people that were involved in the plot. Fawkes was a brave man and refused to give their names, so James I ordered him to be tortured. Eventually Fawkes gave James I the information he wanted and the other plotters were found. Catesby and four of the plotters died fighting royal soldiers on **8 November 1605**. The other 8 plotters were arrested and put on trial in **January 1606** - they were all found guilty and executed (including Fawkes). The plot had failed. As a result James I became very popular because people were very relieved he had not been killed.

Tasks:

1. Using the information above, make a timeline of the events mentioned in your books. (Hint: to help you the dates have been put in bold - there are nine of them.)
2. Why were English Catholics angry with James I at the start of his reign? (Sentence starter: 'English Catholics were angry with James I because...')
3. In your own words sum up what the plotters' plan was using **three** bullet-points.
4. Why did the 1605 Gunpowder Plot fail? (Sentence starter: 'The Gunpowder Plot failed because...')
5. What happened to the people who plotted against James I in 1605? (Sentence starter: 'After their plan failed, the plotters were...')
6. What do you think would have happened if the Gunpowder Plot had succeeded? (Sentence starter: 'If the Gunpowder Plot had succeeded...')

Challenge: Imagine you are an ambassador (someone who represents a foreign country overseas) living in London - write a letter home reporting on the Gunpowder Plot. Remember to include lots of detail - you can even put in drawings if you want!