

WALT:

- Find out about the gunpowder plot that happened a very long time ago

Success Criteria

- I can talk about who some of the Gunpowder plotters were, why and how they wanted to carry out their plan.
- I can imagine and act out what the plotters may have talked about when they were planning their Gunpowder Plot.

What Happens on November 5th?

On 5th November each year, people in the United Kingdom often watch firework displays and light bonfires.

1. Have you seen fireworks before?
2. What do you think about them?
3. Do you know **where** this is happening?

Let's start to find out **why** this happens every year...



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The Start of the Gunpowder Plot

It is the year 1605 in London. A group of young Catholic men meet to talk about their worries and how angry they are that King James I is punishing Catholic people in England.



London in 1605

The Start of the Gunpowder Plot

The men often meet in secret in London. They know that the King opens Parliament every year and that the King will be here in November 1605. They decide to blow up the houses of parliament when the king is inside! They are going to use many barrels of gunpowder to do this.



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Who Are the Plotters?

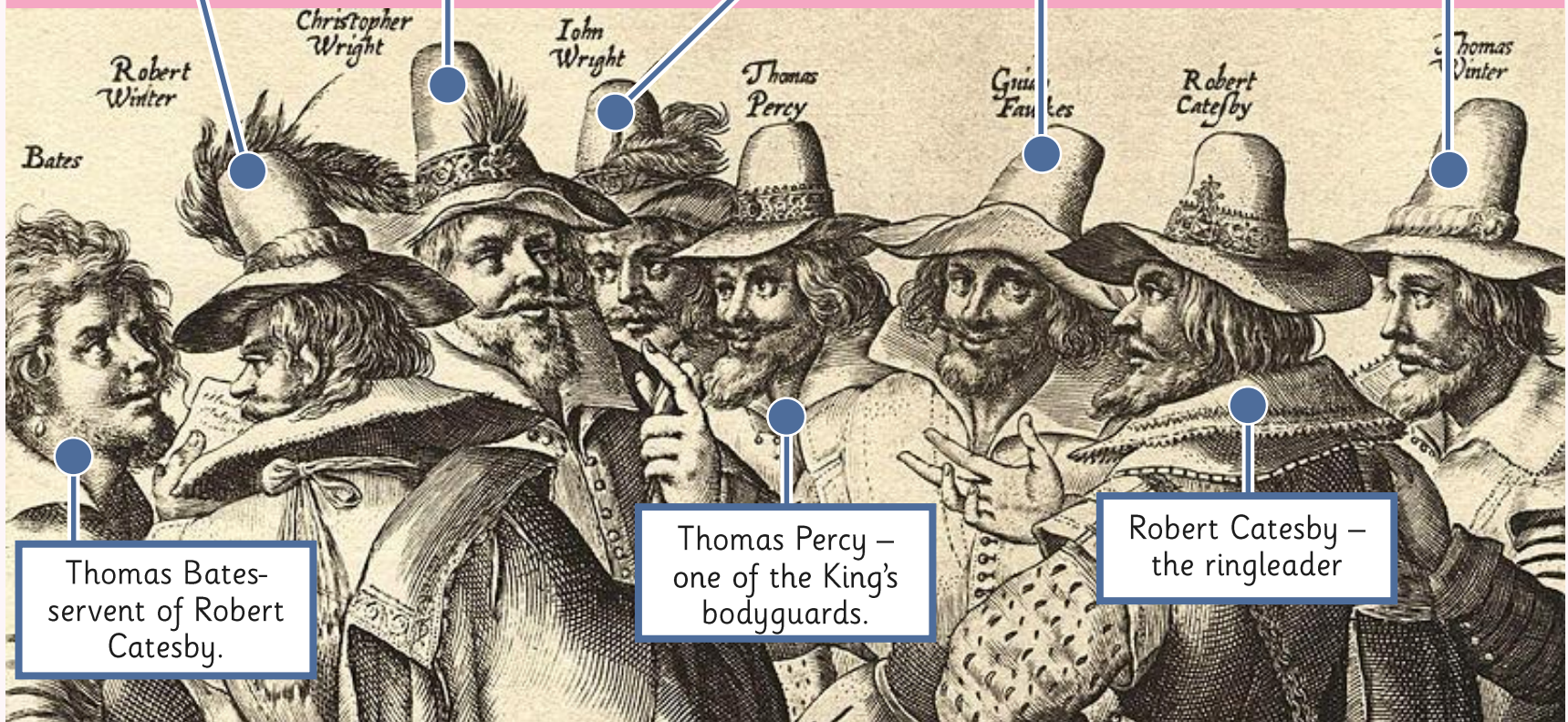
Robert Winter –
cousin of Robert
Catesby

Christopher
Wright – friend of
Robert Catesby

John Wright –
friend of Robert
Catesby

Guy Fawkes –
gunpowder expert

Thomas Winter –
cousin of Robert
Catesby

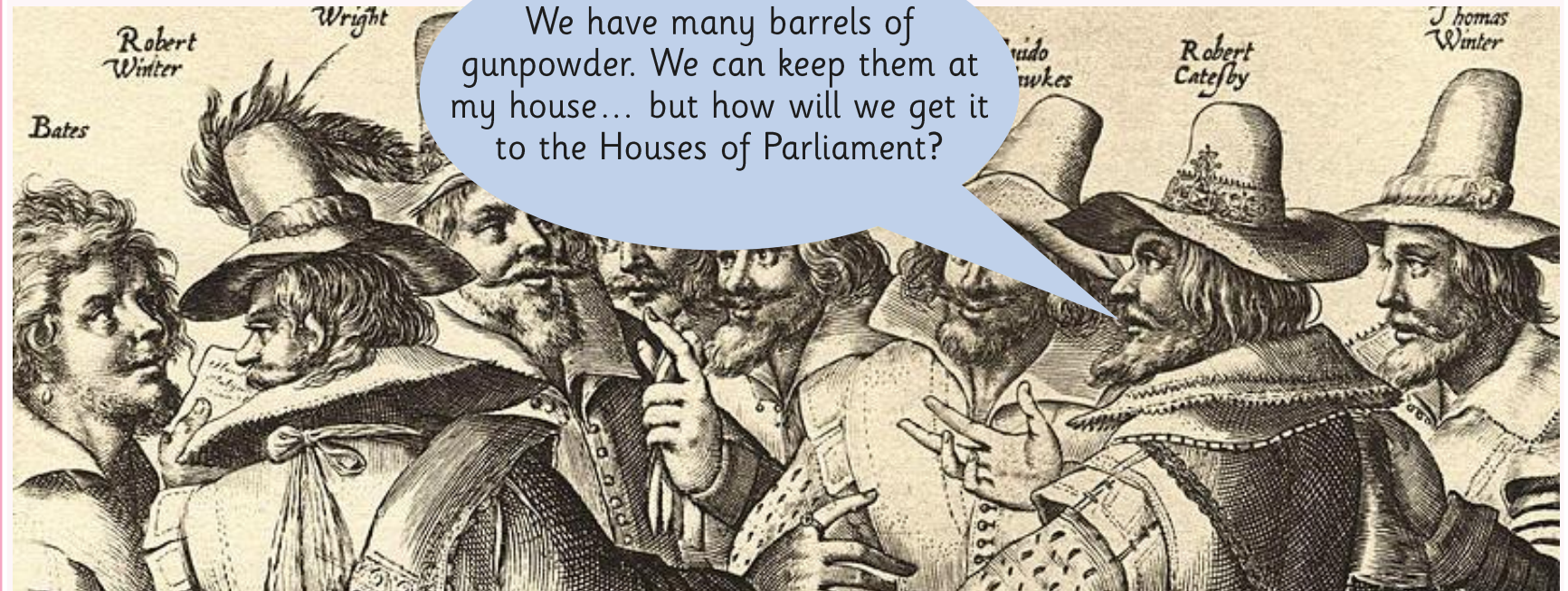


Thomas Bates –
servant of Robert
Catesby.

Thomas Percy –
one of the King's
bodyguards.

Robert Catesby –
the ringleader

A Problem for the Plotters



The men have a problem. How are they going to get the gunpowder into the Houses of Parliament?

What do you think they should do? What are they saying to each other?

What Happened Next?

Thomas Percy, who is a royal bodyguard, moves to a house not far from Parliament.

The men start digging a tunnel from the house underneath the Houses of Parliament. They dig at night to avoid anyone hearing them.

Then – a stroke of luck! Thomas Percy is allowed to rent a space in a cellar directly underneath the Houses of Parliament, right under where the King would be sitting!

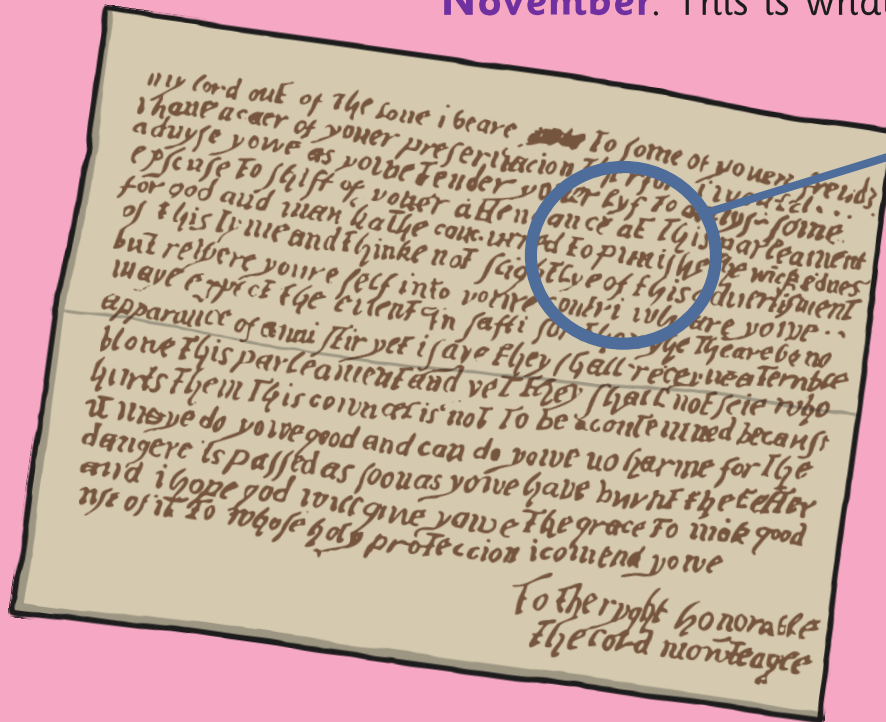
They don't need to dig a tunnel anymore.

Guy Fawkes pretends to be Percy's servant and starts moving barrels of gunpowder into the cellar and hides them.

Altogether he puts **36 barrels** in the cellar.

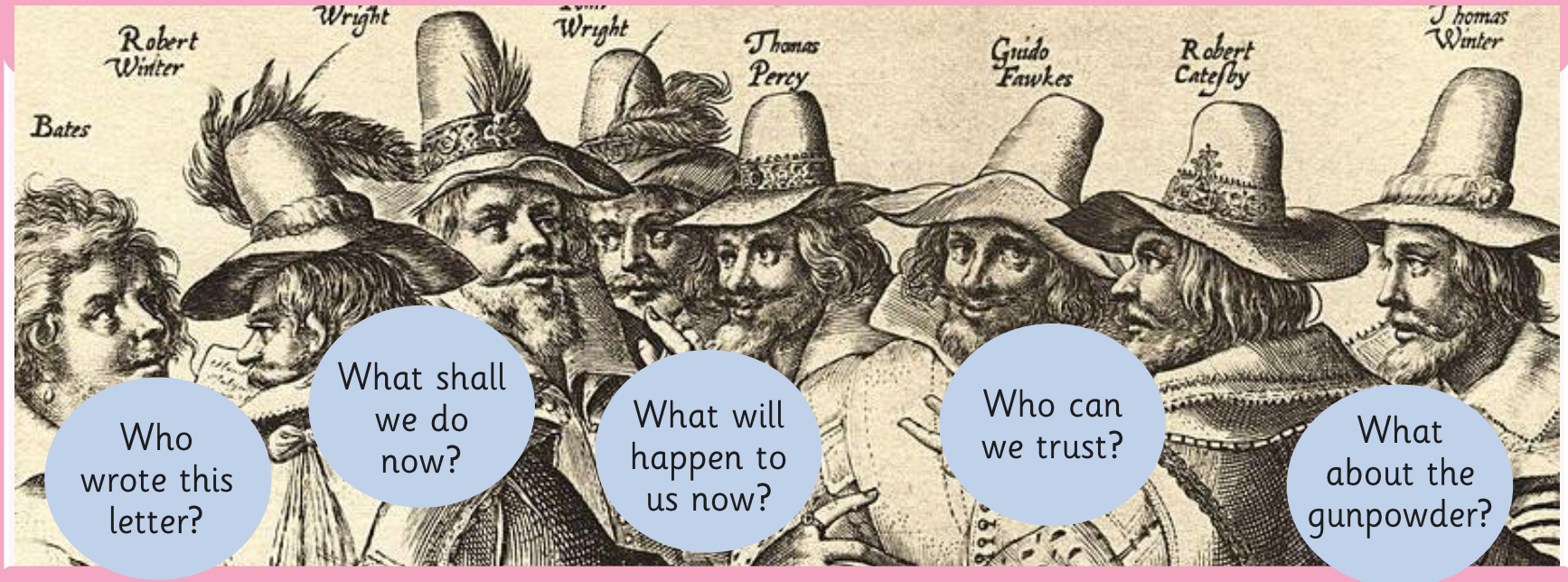
What Happened Next?

Then, just days before they are ready to blow up Parliament, the plotters discover another problem! On 26th October 1605, Lord Monteagle, who is a Catholic, receives an unsigned letter that warns him not to go to the opening of Parliament on the **5th November**. This is what part of it says:



“My Lord, out of the love I bear to some of your friends, I have a care of your preservation, therefore I would advise you as you tender your life to **devise some excuse to shift your attendance at this parliament...** I say **they shall receive a terrible blow this parliament** and yet they shall not see who hurts them...”

The Plotters Role Play



A servant of Lord Monteagle tells the plotters that someone has written a letter about their plans to blow up parliament.

What are they saying to each other now?

In your groups, can you create a role play showing what you think these men talked about and decided to do next?

Get Ready to Share Your Role Plays

- What do you think happened next?
- What do you think Guy Fawkes wanted to do?

Let's find out what really happened...



What Happened Next?

The plotters worried that they could not go ahead with their plan. They wanted to find out who sent the letter but had no proof about who wrote it.

They checked to see whether the cellar had been searched and the gunpowder was still there. They decided to carry on with their plan to blow up Parliament...

We shall find out the next part of the Gunpowder Plot in our next lesson!

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Quick Quiz!

Why did the plotters choose the 5th November to blow up the Houses of Parliament?

- A. It was the start of Spring.
- B. King James was to be married.
- C. It was the opening of the Houses of Parliament and the plotters knew the King and government officials would be there.

Quick Quiz!

What was Thomas Percy's job?

- A. He was the King's servant.
- B. He was the King's cook.
- C. He was the King's bodyguard.

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Quick Quiz!

In the end, where did they store the barrels of gunpowder?

- A. In a cellar under the Houses of Parliament.
- B. Guy Fawkes' house.
- C. Buckingham Palace.

Quick Quiz!

How did the King find out about the plot?

- A. An anonymous letter was sent to lord Monteagle warning him not to attend the opening of Parliament.
- B. Catesby overheard a conversation.
- C. Guy Fawkes told the King.

Quick Quiz!

Who told the plotters that the king had been made aware of their plot?

- A. King's cook.
- B. King's servant.
- C. King's bodyguard.