James I of England, “A Counterblaste to Tobacco.” (1604)
Tobacco was first imported to Spain and Portugal in the early sixteenth century, and it immediately generated fierce controversy. Early proponents in England praised its medicinal benefits, but others condemned it as a "heathen fume." One of its most vocal critics was King James I, who reputedly became ill after his first attempt at smoking.

Have you not reason then to be ashamed and to forbear this filthy novelty, so basely grounded, so foolishly received and so grossly mistaken in the right use thereof. In your abuse thereof sinning against God harming yourselves both in person and goods, and raking also thereby the marks and notes of vanity upon you by the custom thereof making yourselves to be wondered at by all foreign civil nations and by all strangers that come among you to be scorned and held in contempt; a custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black stinking fume thereof nearest resembling the horrible stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless.

Document Analysis

Would it surprise you to learn that the king wrote this pamphlet anonymously? Why or why not?
What does the phrase “horrible stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless” refer to?
What criticisms of smoking and smokers does the king present?