

RLS/SCRAN S3 WEB Resource Pack

Can you complete the King James II quest?

You may need to do a little extra research:

- Visit the SCRAN website <http://www.scran.ac.uk/> and access the relevant records using the SCRAN ID numbers provided under each resource
- Visit [places of interest](#)
- Do your own research by following [links](#)
- Investigate the CD-ROM *The Scottish People 800-1450 – People of a kingdom*, Learning and Teaching Scotland www.ltscotland.org.uk, email: enquiries@LTScotland.com, tel: Customer Services +44 (0)8700 100 297



Portrait of James II

SCRAN 000-000-202-727-C

James II (1430-1460)

- King of Scotland from 1437-1460
- Improved the wealth and cultural life of Scotland
- Made good alliances with Europe
- Defeated the rival 'Black' Douglas family's threat to the throne

Fact finding

1. Who did James II marry? Who was his wife's powerful father?
2. As part of his marriage settlement, James II was presented what gift from the Duke of Burgundy?
 - (a) A fleet of trade ships
 - (b) £2,000 in silver
 - (c) Two cannons
3. Who were James II's parents?

Looking at Evidence

4.



Look closely at this heraldic portrait of James II of Scotland and Mary of Gueldres.

What is important about their costume? What does this tell us about their union?

SCRAN 000-000-143-863-C

5.

*'Çou fu á feste saint Jehan
Ke li rois á Caradigam
Ot court tenue comme rois'*

www.scran.ac.uk

Listen to this excerpt from the verse *Roman de Fergus*, written in the French of the period.

It is thought the verse may commemorate the marriage of Alan, last Prince of Galloway.

What is odd about the language of the verse? Do you think it is different from modern day French? Why?

Interpretation

6. James II was made king at Holyrood Abbey. Up until this point, all Scottish monarchs had been inaugurated at Scone in Perthshire. Why do you think this was significant? What impression would it have given to native nobles and leaders? European rulers?



Holyrood Abbey, Edinburgh

SCRAN 000-000-004-318-C

7. How did James II's marital alliance help Scotland's trade?

8. Explain the feud between James II and the 'Black' Douglas family. How did it start? How did it end?

Links

<http://nms.ac.uk>

The National Museum of Scotland presents the history of Scotland – its land, its people and their achievements – through its rich collections built up over more than two centuries.

<http://www.scran.ac.uk/>

SCRAN is the award winning history and culture website providing instant access to images, sounds, movies and learning resources. It contains over one million records from museums, galleries and archives.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/scottishhistory/>

On this site you'll find in-depth articles, multimedia (like games, virtual tours and animations) as well as bite-size material like timelines and short biographies of historic figures. All is designed for you to get more out of your interest in History.

<http://www.nts.org.uk/>

This site contains useful information, whether you want to know more about the National Trust for Scotland's vital conservation work or are planning to visit some of the places of interest.

<http://www.ntseducation.org.uk/>

On this site there are sections which are intended to assist teachers with various topics in the school curriculum. They provide useful background material for teachers intending to explore these topics with their students.

<http://www.nationalgalleries.org/>

Education is at the heart of the work of the National Galleries of Scotland. Each of the Galleries provides a rich and lively learning resource. Our inclusive approach offers many different ways of learning to give everyone a chance to become actively engaged with art.

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk>

Historic Scotland safeguards the nation's built heritage and promotes its understanding and enjoyment. You can find information on more than 300 properties and scheduled ancient monuments. We also have resources for schools and details on technical conservation and research.

<http://www.nls.ac.uk>

The National Library of Scotland – Scotland's largest library and the world centre for the study of Scotland and the Scots. A vast reference library, covering all subjects, from art to mountaineering, and from early times to the digital age.

<http://www.nas.gov.uk>

The National Archives of Scotland (or NAS) is the main archive for sources of the history of Scotland as a separate kingdom, her role in the British Isles and the links between Scotland and many other countries over the centuries.

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk>

Learning and Teaching Scotland is a national public body sponsored by the Scottish Executive Education Department. The Scottish Executive has charged Learning and Teaching Scotland with providing advice, support, resources and staff development that enhance the quality of educational experiences with a view to improving attainment and achievement and promoting lifelong learning.

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Places of Interest

Holyrood Abbey, Edinburgh

Threave Castle, Kirkcudbrightshire

Linlithgow Palace, Linlithgow, West Lothian

'Mons Meg' on display at Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh

Answers

1. Mary of Gueldres, the daughter of the Duke of Gueldres in the Low Countries.
 2. (c) Two cannons, one of which was the famous 'Mons Meg'
 3. James I and Joan Beaufort
- James II's clothing shows the heraldic arms of Scotland – the Lion Rampant. Mary's costume includes the arms of her father Arnold, Duke of Gueldres. These arms are official symbols and are significant in representing the political union between Scotland and Gueldres (Guelderland) in the Low Countries.
5. The language is different from modern day French. In this period, the language of the court was a mixture of French combined with Gaelic and Latin.
 6. All previous monarchs had drawn upon the Gaelic traditions of symbolism in their coronation. James II broke with this tradition, marking a new phase in Scottish politics. The political centre was firmly established in Edinburgh. This perhaps gave both native and European leaders the impression that James II was a bold new monarch, in a new dynasty – a forward-looking break with the past.
 7. James II alliance to Mary of Gueldres allowed trade between Scotland and Europe to prosper. As part of their marriage treaty, Scotland formed commercial agreements with Burgundy, Holland, Brabant, Zeeland and Flanders. James II had to fund Mary's expensive tastes, encouraging many luxuries to be brought into Scotland.
 8. The 'Black' Douglases were one of the leading noble families in southern Scotland. James II was threatened by their power. In 1452, he invited the 8th Earl of Douglas to Stirling Castle under a 'safe-conduct' and then broke this assurance of safety and murdered him. This stirred up a serious feud between the two families. James II launched a full-scale attack on the Douglas stronghold of Threave Castle. The 'Black' Douglases were defeated and the authority of the Stewart dynasty secured.