

Resource Pack

Can you complete the Kenneth mac Alpin 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

Kenneth mac Alpin (d.858)

- Ruler of the Scots of Dalriada from 843-858
- United the Scots and the Picts to form Alba which became Scotia, and eventually Scotland
- Moved the centre of political power from Dunadd in Argyll to the land of the Picts in Forteviot, Perthshire



Warlord on horseback from the Dupplin Cross, Forteviot, Perthshire.

SCRAN 000-000-024-928-C

Finding Facts

1. Where was the centre of power for the Scots of Dalriada?
2. The Scots of Dalriada were closely related to the people of which country?
 - (a) England
 - (b) Ireland
 - (c) Norway
3. There are 3 main families or kindred within Dalriada. Which of the following is not one of them?
 - (a) Cenel Loairn
 - (b) Cenel Somerled
 - (c) Cenel nGabrain
 - (d) Cenel nOengusa

Looking at Evidence

4.



(a) This iron axehead is from a 9th-10th century Viking grave at Ballinaby on Islay, Inner Hebrides.

SCRAN 000-000-099-750-C



(b) Map showing Viking migration to Scotland.

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(c) This iron javelin head is from Dunadd, Argyll. It dates from sometime between the 5th-10th century.

SCRAN 000-100-102-584-C

Look at the evidence. What do these weapons tell us about events in Dalriada? Were these peaceful times? Who was the enemy of the Scots of Dalriada?

5.



(a) St Finnan's bell, 9th century from St Finnan's Isle, Loch Shiel.

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(b) The Canna Cross ('A'Chill Canna), Canna, Inner Hebrides. Carved between 700 and 800, it is said to mark the site of St Columba's Chapel.

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St Finnan and St Columba were Irish churchmen who founded religious communities in the west of Scotland in the 6th century. Similar crosses and bells have been found throughout the west Highlands.

What does this evidence suggest about the religious culture of the west of Scotland?

6.



SCRAN 000-299-999-259-C



SCRAN 000-299-999-268-C



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Look at these drawings and photograph of the Sueno's Stone, Forres, Morayshire. The stone is thought to commemorate a major battle in the 9th century involving the Picts and some invaders of the north. **Who do you think are the invaders?** You may wish to follow the links.

Interpretation

7. What do you think was the main reason for the coming together of the kingdom of the Scots and Picts?

8. Why do you think the centre of political power for the Scots and Picts moved to the heart of Pictland, and not the hillfort of the Scots at Dunadd, Argyll?

9. Consider why the union of the kingdoms of the Scots and Picts was such a significant step.

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.

Email: enquiries@LTScotland.com

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Places of Interest

Iona Abbey, Iona

Sueno's Stone, Forres, Moray

Dunadd hill fort, Argyll

Dupplin Cross, Perthshire

Answers

1. Dunadd, Argyll
2. (b) Ireland
3. Cenel Somerled

4. The Vikings were the enemy of the Scots. They raided and attacked all coasts of Scotland from the 8th-9th centuries as shown in the map (b). The Viking axehead (a) is strong evidence of their presence in the west. The spearhead found at Dunadd (c) is evidence of unsettled times in the kingdom of the Scots.

5. The distribution of similar bells and crosses all over the west of Scotland suggests a close relation between the Gaelic cultures of the Scots of the west and the Irish.

6. It is thought the Sueno's Stone commemorates a battle between the Picts and invading Norsemen. It is evidence of troubled times and struggles for control and domination in the north of Scotland.

7. Uniting against a common enemy – the Vikings. At this time the Vikings were putting pressure along the entire coastlines of Scotland.

8. The Vikings were a strong seafaring army. Pressure from raids and surprise attacks on the coasts forced the move to the centre of Pictland, the strong power base at Forteviot, Perthshire.

9. Previously, Scotland was a country of mixed peoples with different languages, customs and beliefs. The coming together of the Scots and Picts was a move toward the creation of a united nation with a common language and identity. Kenneth mac Alpin's role was a significant step toward the modern spirit of kingship.