

## Resource Pack

### Can you complete the Robert the Bruce 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](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk), email: [enquiries@LTScotland.com](mailto:enquiries@LTScotland.com), tel: Customer Services +44 (0)8700 100 297



#### Robert the Bruce (1274-1329)

- King of Scotland from 1306-1329
- Fought for Scotland's independence in the years following the *Wars of Independence*
- Led the Scots to victory at the *Battle of Bannockburn* in 1314
- Became known as a national hero

Statue of Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn.  
SCRAN 000-000-151-321-C

### ***Fact Finding***

1. In which century did Robert the Bruce's Norman ancestors settle in Scotland?
2. Where did Robert the Bruce famously defeat a much stronger army in 1314?
3. In which year was the *Declaration of Arbroath* written?

## *Looking at Evidence*

4.



Dunstaffnage Castle, Argyll

SCRAN 000-000-157-783-C

*Look* at this image of Dunstaffnage Castle. It was captured by Robert the Bruce between 1308-14. Describe the features of its design. Why do you think they would have been important? How are these different from a modern home?

5.

*'Yet if [the lord Robert] should give up what he has begun, seeking to make us or our kingdom subject to the king of England or to the English, we would strive at once to drive him out as our enemy and a subverter of his own right and ours, and we would make some other man who was able to defend us our king; for, as long as a hundred of us remain alive, we will never on any conditions be subjected to the lordship of the English. For we fight not for glory, nor riches, nor honours, but for freedom alone, which no good man gives up except with his life.'*

This is an extract from the *Declaration of Arbroath* (in English).

[www.scran.ac.uk](http://www.scran.ac.uk)

*Listen\** to this excerpt from the *Declaration of Arbroath*. The *Declaration* was written in 1320 when Scotland's independence was still under threat, as an appeal to the Pope for recognition for an independent Scottish nation.

What do you notice about the words used? the tone?

Find out more about the *Declaration of Arbroath*. Consider its purpose and how this affected its tone.

6.



The Bute Mazer, 14<sup>th</sup> century drinking vessel  
made soon after the Battle of Bannockburn.

SCRAN 000-190-001-147-C

*Look* at the Bute Mazer. You may wish to find out more on this object by following the link. How is Bruce depicted? What impression is created?

### ***Interpretation***

7. What is so important about the Monymusk Reliquary?
8. Why do you think Robert the Bruce may have revived Gaelic traditions?
9. How do you think Robert the Bruce managed to win at the Battle of Bannockburn?

## 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](mailto:enquiries@LTScotland.com)

Telephone: Customer Services +44 (0)8700 100 297

### *Places of Interest*

Bannockburn Heritage Centre, Stirlingshire  
King's Cave, the Isle of Arran, Argyll  
Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness, Inverness-shire  
Dunstaffnage Castle, Argyll  
Roxburgh Castle, Borders  
Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian  
Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh  
Stirling Castle, Stirling  
Arbroath Abbey, Borders  
Rothesay Castle, Bute, Argyll

### *Answers*

1. 12<sup>th</sup> century

2. Bannockburn

3. 1320

4. The castle was built in a dangerous period of Scotland's history for purposes of defence. A high, thick curtain wall surrounds the castle, this is an early 13<sup>th</sup> century form of defence from attacking enemies. Fewer windows and doors also made it safer from attack. Modern houses do not need such serious defences. More importance is placed on decoration. They may have more windows and have no need for heavy defensive walls.

5. The *Declaration* is a very dramatic piece of political literature. It outlines Scotland as a nation of people united to one cause. Proud determination is outlined in the line:

*'for we fight not for glory, nor riches, nor honours but for freedom alone'*

This is reinforced with the sincere assertion:

*'which no good man gives up except with his life'*

The Scottish people are shown as willing to fight to the death for their country's freedom. The tone is very patriotic. The *Declaration* may be considered propaganda for an independent Scotland.

6. Bruce is depicted as a lion in the centre (symbol of strength and dominance) surrounded by the shields of his supporters. The impression created is one of military supremacy and confidence after the victory at Bannockburn.

7. The Monymusk Reliquary held a relic of St Columba – an important saint to Scotland. It was reputedly carried at Bannockburn. It is an important symbol of the (modern) Scottish identity.

8. Robert the Bruce recognised the importance of the Gaelic kingdom of the west. He had Gaelic roots on his mother's side. He attempted to combine the new Anglo-Norman customs with the strong Gaelic culture of the west to forge a unique Scottish identity.

9. Bruce deployed his forces strategically. He had a commanding knowledge of the terrain of the area around Bannockburn and used this to his advantage. It is also thought that he made use of symbols of the emerging Scottish identity to stir patriotism in his men.