

The Scottish Wars of Independence: John Balliol - Teaching Ideas



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These teaching ideas are designed to be used in conjunction with the Scran Pathfinder Pack "John Balliol. Start by giving students access to the informative text in the pack, and the images: you may wish to download the images to project onto a whiteboard, or print out larger copies.

Areas for Discussion

- What were the arguments for and against King Edward I being invited to choose the next King of Scotland?
- What claims did Balliol and Bruce have to the throne?
- It was thought by the lords of Scotland that Balliol was chosen to be the puppet of King Edward. Discuss this idea and reasons why they might have thought this.
- Why do you think Edward chose Balliol?
- How did Balliol try to show that he was not the puppet of Edward?
- Why did the Scots sign the treaty which became known as the Auld Alliance with the King of France?
- What was Edward's reaction to the signing of this treaty?
- How did King John come to be known as 'Toom Tabard' - empty coat?