

The Scottish Wars of Independence: Robert the Bruce - Initial Teaching Ideas



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These teaching ideas are designed to be used in conjunction with the Scran Pathfinder Pack "Robert the Bruce". 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.

Questions for Discussion / Activities

- Why did Bruce's family initially get a "bad press"?
- Discuss the importance of the killing of John Comyn.
- Discuss the various tales which surround Bruce while he was in hiding, such as the spider in the cave. How true do the pupils think these are? Why might they have developed as stories? What messages do they try to put forward?
- Why was the Battle of Bannockburn so important in the Scottish Wars of Independence? Think about what had come before and what came after.
- Pupils could do some research into the Declaration of Arbroath. What did it contain? Why was it so important?
- Pupils could try to compare and contrast the characters and achievements of Wallace and Bruce. In what ways were they similar / different? Who do the pupils think made the greatest impact on the history of the period etc? This could form the basis of a piece of informational writing, with perhaps a persuasive stance.