

# Robert Burns Birthplace Museum



**Activities to help you prepare for your visit to  
the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum**

# How should I behave in a museum?



- The Burns cottage was built in 1757, that means it is \_\_\_\_ years old.
- People have been visiting the cottage for over 100 years, to see where Robert Burns was born.
- Here are some ways that we can all help to look after the Burns cottage for people in the future.

## LOOK

### L - Listen to the teachers and guides

The teachers who are taking you to the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum and the guides who are showing you round want you to get the most out of your visit to the museum and cottage.

### O – Objects

Some of the objects in the cottage are meant to be touched. But you should only touch an object if you have been told you are allowed to. This is because you might break one of the objects, or hurt someone with the object.

### O - Other visitors

Lots of visitors come from all over the world to visit the Burns cottage and the museum. People might get angry if they think their visit is being disrupted.

### K – Knowledge

You can gain new knowledge by looking at the objects, reading descriptions, listening to poems, playing the interactive games and asking questions. We also want you to share your knowledge, this means taking part in activities at the museum, or letting us know what you already know about Robert Burns.

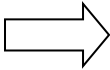
L.O.O.K is an acronym. An acronym is when you make a word out of the first letter of a set of words. Other examples of acronyms include:

ABBA  
Agnetha  
Benny  
Björn  
Anni-Frid



POTUS  
President of the United States

There are lots of ways you can use acronyms to remember how you should or shouldn't behave in a museum, here is an example:



D – Don't run  
A – Ask before touching  
T – Think about other people  
A – Always be polite

Now think about the things that you should or shouldn't do in a museum, and make up your own acronym help you remember:

Thanks for learning about how to behave in a museum. We are looking forward to meeting you when you come to visit the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum!



ROBERT  
BURNS  
BIRTHPLACE  
MUSEUM

# What do we know about Robert Burns?

Use this box to write everything you know about Robert Burns as a person:

Use this box to write everything you know about the poems and songs Robert Burns wrote:

Now talk to everyone else to find out what they know about Robert Burns. You can write what you find out in these boxes.

Use this box to write everything you have found out about Robert Burns from other people:

Use this box to write everything you have found out about Robert Burns' poems and songs from other people:



Use the boxes below to design and write a leaflet for someone who has never heard of Robert Burns.

You should think about answering these questions:

Who was Robert Burns?

When was Robert Burns alive?

What did Robert Burns do?

Where can you find out more about Robert Burns?

**Burns for Beginners**

*“The one stop shop for anyone who wants to find out more about Robert Burns”*





# Life in the eighteenth century

We can use museums to learn about the past. You can see these three objects in our museum. What can we learn about Robert Burns or the eighteenth century from these objects?

**Pocket-sized writing set owned by Robert Burns**



**This object tells us ...**

**This object tells us ...**

**Robert Burns' riding crop  
(This is like a whip)**



**A sock with the initials  
'R.B.' stitched into it**



**This object tells us ...**



**ROBERT  
BURNS  
BIRTHPLACE  
MUSEUM**

This is an extract from 'The Cotter's Saturday Night'. When Robert Burns wrote this poem he was inspired by his own childhood, so the poem is a good way of imagining what it would be like to be living in the Burns cottage in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Read this extract together and then create a short drama scene based on this poem. You can use the box underneath the poem to write which characters will be in your scene.

At length his lonely cot appears in view,  
Beneath the shelter of an aged tree;  
Th' expectant wee-things, toddlin, stacher  
through  
To meet their dad, wi' flichterin noise and glee.  
His wee bit ingle, blinkin bonilie,  
His clean hearth-stane, his thrifty wifie's smile,  
The lispin infant, prattling on his knee,  
Does a' his weary kiaugh and care beguile,  
And makes him quite forget his labour and his  
toil.

Cot – Cottage

Stacher – Stagger/Stumble

Flichterin – Fluttering

Ingle – Hearth/Fireside

Prattling – Chattering

Kiaugh – Care/worry

Characters in our scene:



ROBERT  
BURNS  
BIRTHPLACE  
MUSEUM