

## Pre-visit Activity Pack

# Tim'rous Beasties

*Scots language and creative fun for early years*



Curriculum for Excellence Level: Early (Pre 5 - Primary 1)



## How to use this resource

### *Scots language and creative fun for early years*



Hello and welcome to your Tim'rous Beasties pre-visit Activity Pack for teachers. Everything you will need before your visit is explained in this document. In here you will find fun activities for you and your pupils designed to help you prepare for your workshop at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum.

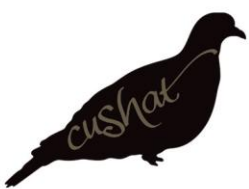
## Aims and achievements:

### What your pupils will achieve:

- An understanding of some key facts about Robert Burns to prepare for their visit.
- A deeper understanding of what a museum is and what to expect from their visit to RBBM.
- A stronger understanding of the use of movement, mime and action in expressing their ideas.
- Ability to associate words and language with a visual stimulus and associate action and movement with words and meanings.

### What skills your pupils will develop:

- Performance, role play and drama skills.
- The ability to work as part of a team and on their own.
- Increased confidence through participation in group activities.
- Skills in presentation of ideas and interpretations, and delivery to an audience.
- Listening and observation skills.



### Robert Burns and the museum



*Introduce pupils to some key facts about Robert Burns and what it means to be visiting a museum!*

#### Lesson objectives:

- Prepare pupils for their visit to the museum and check expectations.
- Check existing knowledge of Burns and encourage creativity

#### Curriculum for Excellence:

LIT 0-04a

SOC 0-15a

HWB 0-013a

## Introduction:

Talk to your class about what to expect from their visit to the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum by discussing the following questions:

What is a museum?

*A museum is a place that protects lots of special objects from the past so people can enjoy them and learn about them today! The Robert Burns Birthplace Museum has a lot of objects that belonged to Robert Burns.*

Can we touch things in the museum?

*A lot of the objects in the museum are very old and valuable, so we have to keep them safe behind glass cases. Some objects are OK to touch, and we will let you know which ones. To keep the objects safe, it is also important not to run around in the museum or wander off (this keeps you safe too – so you don't fall over or get lost!).*

Will there be other people visiting?

*Other visitors will probably be looking around while you are visiting – remember they also want to enjoy themselves at the museum so please don't run around and shout! This doesn't mean you have to be totally silent though – we want you to enjoy yourselves too!*



Will we have fun?

*We really hope that you will have fun! The museum is full of really exciting objects and we have some really fun activities for you to do while you are here. We're really looking forward to meeting you and showing you round.*

Who has visited a museum before? Which one? What did they like best about it?

*Discuss previous museum visits with your class and ask them what they are looking forward to about visiting RBBM.*

## Main:

Check your class's existing knowledge of Burns. Who can tell the rest of the class something they know? Can anybody name a Burns song or poem, or perhaps even sing/recite one? If they are struggling, direct them towards Auld Lang Syne by asking what they would sing at Hogmanay. Does anybody know anything else about Burns?

Cover some key points about Robert Burns, particularly that he was a poet and a songwriter, he lived in Alloway (you will be going to see the museum there!), and he lived 250 years ago.

Ask your pupils to make a poster about Robert Burns and what they know about him. They can work in pairs or groups if they would prefer. Pupils could draw what they think Robert Burns or Burns Cottage looked like, or maybe they could illustrate a poem they know.

## Plenary:

Collect all the posters together and display them somewhere in the classroom. Recap what pupils have learnt about museums and Robert Burns and tell them they will find out more when they visit Burns Cottage for their workshop!

## End of Activity 1





## Activity 2: Meet the Mousie!



*Learn the story of the mousie who pupils will be meeting at the museum and find out about some of the dangers he or she faces.*

### Lesson objectives:

- Communicate thoughts and feelings through drama
- Increase knowledge of character development, as well as empathising with a literary character.

### Curriculum for Excellence:

LIT 0-01c

HWB 0-25a

EXA 0-08a

## Introduction:

Explain to pupils that they will be finding out about a very special animal when they come to visit Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. This animal is very small, it talks by squeaking and it likes to eat cheese... what could the animal be?

Once the class has guessed mouse, explain to them that Robert Burns would not have called it a mouse, because he didn't speak English, he spoke Scots... so he would have called it a mousie! Do pupils know any other Scots words?

## Main:

Explain to pupils that a mousie does not always have an easy life, it has to be on the lookout for dangers from other creatures! Tell the class that they will now play a game to find out about this.

Clear a space in your classroom or go outdoors if possible, and tell each pupil that they have now become a mousie. They all have to find themselves a nice cosy bed by curling up on the floor and pretending to be asleep.

Tell all the mousies that you are now going to become one of their natural predators – an owl! Tell them that in Scots, the word for an owl is a 'hoolet'. You are going to move



through the mousies and touch some people on the head. Explain to the pupils that if they get tapped on the head this means they have been eaten by the hoolet and they have to go and stand at the side of the group. Tap about half of the pupils before the 'hoolet' is full up.

Ask if any of the pupils would like to have a go at being a hoolet and play the game a few more times.

### Plenary:

Print out a Mousie Portrait template for each pupil and get them to draw what they think their mousie might look like – they can decorate the frame as well!

Explain to pupils that when they get to Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, they will find out more about what happened to the mousie and learn about another danger it faced!

*End of Activity 2 - We look forward to meeting you and your class when you visit us at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum!*

