



Pre-visit Activity Pack

When Burns was a Bairn

Creative, farmyard and eighteenth century life themed fun



ROBERT
BURNS
BIRTHPLACE
MUSEUM

Curriculum for Excellence Level: First (Primary 2 – Primary 4)





How to use this resource

Creative, farmyard and eighteenth century life themed fun



Hello and welcome to your 'When Burns was a Bairn' 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:

- A deeper understanding of what a museum is and what to expect from a visit to RBBM
- A deeper understanding of the farming environment Robert Burns lived in during his time at Burns cottage
- Pupils will develop background information on Robert Burns to prepare for their visit
- Pupils will think about the natural environment of plants and animals in Scotland

What skills your pupils will develop:

- Creativity, by designing posters and delivering information
- An understanding of the differences between eighteenth century life and the modern day
- Increased confidence through participation in class discussions and activities.
- Use of imagination to think about what life would have been like at Burns Cottage, and ability to use descriptive words to convey their thoughts.
- Listening and observation skills.





Activity 1:

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 they know what to expect from their trip.
- Check existing knowledge of Burns and encourage creative ways of demonstrating that knowledge.

Curriculum for Excellence:

HWB 1-19a

EXA 1-05a

SOC 1-03a

Introduction:

Talk to your class about what to expect from their visit to Burns Cottage 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! Burns Cottage is where Robert Burns was born over 250 years ago so it is very old and very important.

Can we touch things in the cottage?

A lot of the objects in the cottage are OK to touch, but please wait until somebody tells you that you can! To keep the objects safe, it is also important not to run around or wander off in the cottage (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 the cottage while you are visiting – remember they want to enjoy themselves 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!





Can we ask questions?

We love questions! The more the better! It's great to know that you are interested in all the weird and wonderful things we have to show you.

Will we have fun?

We hope that you will have fun! The cottage and museum are 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 seeing you.

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 and Burns Cottage.

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 even sing one?

Cover some key points about Robert Burns... he was a poet and a songwriter, he lived in Alloway (pupils will be going to see the cottage he was born in!), and he lived 250 years ago.

Ask your pupils to make a poster about Robert Burns and what they know about him.

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:

Life on Burns Farm!



Learn about life on an eighteenth century farm and discover more about the food that would have been grown and eaten by the Burns family.

Lesson objectives:

- Develop a general idea of Robert Burns's farming background and his life at Burns Cottage, to be built on during the workshop.
- Pupils will use their imagination to think about what life was like for Robert Burns living in an eighteenth century Cottage and how it was different from modern day life.

Curriculum for Excellence:

EXA 1-03a
SOC 1-02a
SOC 1-04a

Introduction:

Introduce pupils to the concept of a 'farmer'. Does anybody already know what a farmer is? What might a farmer do?

A farmer is somebody who looks after animals and grows crops for food.

Explain that Robert Burns's dad, William, was a farmer at Burns Cottage, which meant that Robert Burns grew up on a farm, and had to help his father out with lots of chores, like cleaning up animal poo and helping to plant and look after the crops. Ask your pupils if they do anything to help around the house. How does what they do differ from what Burns had to do?

Main:

Use the 'Life on Burns Farm' PowerPoint and attached teacher's notes to help your class explore what life was like for Robert Burns living in a cottage 250 years ago.





The PowerPoint is divided into 5 sections that look at: 'Growing vegetables', 'Cooking over a fire', 'Making oatcakes', 'Looking after the cows' and 'Food then and now'. There are questions and activities for your pupils to complete as the PowerPoint progresses.

Plenary:

Use the last slide of the PowerPoint to recap what your pupils have learnt about eighteenth century farming life. They now need to use that knowledge to select which three of the foods on their 'What is Robert Burns having for dinner' he would have eaten, and draw them on their plates.



End of Activity 2 – We look forward to meeting you and your class when you visit us at Burns Cottage!

