

This Document Contains:

- Mary Queen o Scots: This Wis Yer Life (Yester Primary School, Gifford
- Second World War

Notes:**The Highland Clearances**

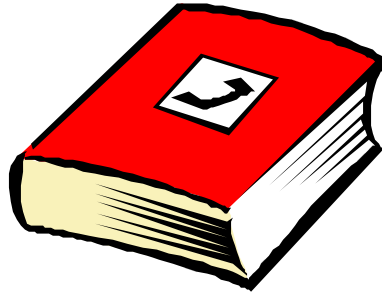
Material socht

The History o the Scots Language

See The *Concise Scots Dictionary* (Introduction) and 14+ pages for background information.

Work sheets for children are in preparation.

Mary Queen o Scots: This wis Yer Life



If *Mary Queen o Scots* could be the subject o *This is Yer Life* whit would aw the people that she kent in her lifetime want tae say? Whit would they want recordit in the *Muckle Reid Buik*?

Wale ane o the characters ablow and try tae think whit it maun hae been like to be that person. Some o the historical facts is here along wi some information about the wey they lived. There are a puckle o questions tae, jist tae help yer imagination along. Aince ye ken yer ain character weel, ye can write doon whit ye wad like tae say tae *Mary*. Gin ye neid mair tae say than ye can find on thir pages, ye can dae mair research or jist mak some o it up – but try tae mak it as rael as possible.

Ane o ye will hae tae tak the pairt o *Mary* herself, an ye'll neid anither o ye tae be the presenter, Michael MCAspel.

Ye micht like tae perform this for yer class or for the rest o the scuil.

Mary of Guise (Mither o Mary Queen o Scots.)

Ye were French, but ye were a lang time in Scotland and nae doot learnt tae speak Scots, although ye wad hae kept yer French accent. Ye were mairrit til James V, *Mary's* faither The day yer wee bairn wis born, the 8th o December 1542, wis cauld and snawy. Ye had her dochter at Linlithgow Palace, ane o yer favourite hooses. It wis richt braw in thae days. For *Mary's* christening, ye dressed her up bonnie in a goonie o white taffetta, aw the wey fae Genoa.

James deed whan wee *Mary* wis jist sax days auld, and ye had a sair fecht tae protect her fae the Scots nobles. They thocht if they haed *Mary* they cud rule Scotland thirsels. Henry VIII o England thocht it wad be a rare idea tae mairry the wee Scots queen tae his son Edward, but ye wantit tae cairry on the Auld Alliance atween Scotland and France, and that meant no gettin ower involved wi England. Ye haed tae be fell diplomatic wi Henry's ambassadors.

In July o 1543, ye took wee *Mary* tae Stirling Castle and that's whaur *Mary* haed her coronation in September, and the puir wee bairn roared and grat aw the wey throu the lang, lang ceremony.

Henry VIII wisnae happy at ye pittin him aff. He sent a muckle airmy tae attack Scotland.

Mary wis taen tae Dunkeld for safety.

Ye were unco wae as the English won ae toon efter anither. Then yer freen and ally, Cardinal Beaton, wis murdered. (Ane o the conspirators that wis eventually punished for that crime wis a young man cried *John Knox*)

There wis mair fierce fechtin in Scotland, and it didnae aw gang the Scots' wey. Queen *Mary* wis shiftit again, this time tae the Lake o Menteith.

It wis decided tae send *Mary* Queen o Scots tae France tae mairry the Dauphin, Francis, and she sailed awa on a simmer's day in 1548, jist five and a hauf year auld. She boardit the ship bravely and luikit jist like a queen. Ye maun hae been sae prood o yer bairn, but yer hert maun hae been affae sair!

Ye luikit efter Scotland while the queen wis in France and ruled wi mense and wisdom. Ye and yer dochter screivit lang letters tae ane anither. Ye een managed tae visit *Mary* in France, and it wis a rael braw affair wi parades and entertainments. Ye bade there for a year but then ye haed tae gang back tae Scotland. Ye deed in Edinburgh Castle in 1560.

Questions tae think about

Ye spent lang whiles awa fae her wean, een afore Mary gaed tae France. Whit wey did ye feel about this?

Whit wad hae been the happiest days o yer life?

Whit wad hae been the saddest days o yer life?

Whit wis it like tae be a wumman in thae days?

Janet Sinclair (Mary's nurse)

Ye luikit efter *Mary* as a bairn and gaed tae France wi her. She probably spent mair time wi ye than wi her ain mither. Ye mind aw the wee things like *Mary's* first tooth and her first wirds. Whan *Mary* gaed tae France, she didnae speak mair nor a wee bit French. *Mary's* first language wis Scots and it wad hae been yersel wha tocht her it. *Mary* wis awfie guid tae ye and gied ye lots o presents.

Questions tae think about

Whit stories and rhymes did tell ye tae Mary whan she wis wee?

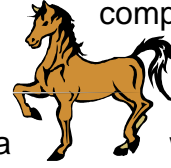
Wis Mary a guid bairn aw the time?

Whit wey dae ye gie a queen a tellin aff?

Whit ploys did wee Mary get up tae in thae muckle castles?

Mary Seaton (Mary's maid o honour)

Mary's wee pals, Mary Beaton, Mary Fleming and Mary Livingston and yersel haed been sent tae keep her company whan she wis at the Lake o Menteith. Ye aw gaed tae France wi her and then ye were taen awa fae her for a while and sent tae a convent tae learn French, but ye aw cam back tae Scotland wi her and ye were *Mary's* companion for maist o her life. Ye were affae guid at daein hair and aye did *Mary's* hair for her. Whan *Mary's* heid wis chappit aff, it wis discovered that she haed haurdly ony hair o her ain left and it wis aw grey. She haed been wearin a wig. This maun hae been yer secret. Ye kent that *Mary* liked ponies, wee dug, falconry, bonny claes and dancin.



Questions tae think aboot

Whit did ye play at whan ye were wee lassies?

Whit wis it like gettin sent aff tae anither country whan ye were jist wee?

Whit wis it like comin hame tae Scotland?

Were ye feart whan the queen wis taen prisoner?

Whit made ye bide wi her whan she wis lockit up in ae castle efter anither?

Francis (Mary's first husband)

Ye were the Dauphin o France whan ye first met *Mary*. She wis six and ye were near five. Ye were a peelly-wally kind o craitur, sma for yer age and blate. Ye haed a bit o a stutter, but ye were a clever eneuch laddie. Ye mairrit *Mary* in 1558 at Notre Dame in Paris. Awbody cam tae see. *Mary* wore white and wis fair radiant. There wis a scatter. (That means coins were thrown tae the fowk in the street, a bit like ye yaised tae get at waddins in Scotland – the bride's faither yaised tae throw pennies for the bairns when the mairrit couple left the kirk.)



In 1559, whan *Mary* wis 17, ye becam king o France and *Mary* becam queen o France and Scotland but the neist year, ye were deid.

Questions tae think aboot

Whit did ye think o *Mary* whan ye first saw her?

Whit wey did she speak?

Wis she kind tae ye?

Whit did ye blether aboot?

Lord James Stuart, Earl o Moray (Mary's hauf-brither)

Ye gaed ower tae France tae see *Mary* afore she cam hame tae Scotland. Ye wantit tae mac siccar that *Mary* wad think weel o ye and tak yer advice aboot whit wey tae govern Scotland. This wis the time o the reformation and *Mary* needit tae keep in wi baith the Protestants and the Catholics. This wisnae easy and ye were determined tae mak *Mary* tak tent tae the Protestants. Ye were fu o chairm and wily as a tod.

Questions tae think aboot

Wad ye hae liked tae be king yersel?

Whit wad hae been difficult aboot bein king?

Whit did ye like aboot Mary?

Whit did ye no like aboot Mary?

John Knox

Ye haed taen pairt in the plot to murder Cardinal Beaton and had been sentenced to be a rower in the French galleys. Ye becam a leader o the Protestants in Scotland and meenister at St Giles in Edinburgh. Ye thocht that female rulers wis a bad thing. Ye haednae liked *Mary's* mither and ye didnae like *Mary*. Ye were affie rude tae her. Ye thocht it wis fair sinfu the wey she cairried on wi her dancin and her fiddlers and her parties, and ye telt her sae, but ye couldnae help admirin her a wee bit.

Questions tae think aboot

Whit wis it like in the French Galleys?

Did ye think ye deservit that punishment?

Whit's wrang wi women rulers?

Whit wey were ye sae muckle agin the Catholic Church?

Lord Darnley

Ye are Henry Stuart Darnley, *Mary's* saicont husband. Ye were richt guid luikin and *Mary* wis taen in by yer bonnie face. In some weys ye were a guid choice for her tae mairry acause ye haed the best claim tae succeed tae the throne o England efter *Mary* hersel and that made *Mary's* claim tae succeed Elizabeth aw the bettir. Elizabeth wisnae pleased and wis feart that *Mary* and yersel micht raise a Catholic army and attack Protestant England. Tae stert wi ye were ower busy haein a guid time, drinkin and pairtyin, but later on ye did hae a daft norrie aboot invadin England, altho *Mary* kent naething aboot it. It wisnae lang afore *Mary* cam tae the conclusion that ye were a waste o space. Ye were jealous o her secretary, David Rizzio, and haed a gang o yer freends murder him in front o her, and her expectin a bairn tae!. Ye were ambeetious tae be king o Scots yersel and *Mary* wis feart that ye wad kidnap yer baby son, James and she aye wantit tae keep an eye on ye tae mak siccar that ye werenae plottin something agin her. Ye didnae gang tae yer ain bairn's christenin, but *Mary* cam tae veesit ye whan ye were no weel, the same nicht as ye were blawn up in mysterious circumstances in yer hoose at Kirk o Field, on whit was then the ootskirts o Edinburgh.

Questions tae think aboot

Whit for did ye want tae be king?

Did ye like Mary?

Were ye pleased tae be a faither?

Whit wey did ye no gang tae the christenin?

David Rizzio

Ye were a young Italian valet wha sang bass in *Mary's* choir. *Mary* made ye her private secretary and for a while ye were a very close freend o Darnley as weel. Ye were suspectit o bein a papal spy and some o the protestant Scots lords plottit agin ye. They gart Darnley think *Mary* looed ye and Darnley got his pal Lord Ruthven and ithers tae stab ye tae death at Holyrood Palace in front o the queen.

Questions tae think aboot

Did ye fancy the queen?

Whit kind o things did ye write for her whan ye were her secretary?

Did ye ivvir tell onybody about *Mary's* private maitters?

Whit were ye thinkin whan that gang o men wi daggers dragged ye oot o the queen's chaumer and stickit ye on the stair?

The Earl o Bothwell

It wis at James's christenin that fowk began tae notice ye. Darnley wisnae there and ye greetit the guests in a swanky new suit o claes that *Mary* bocht ye. Ye met wi Morton and Maitland at Whittingham Castle and plottit tae kill Darnley. A when o ithir lords kent aboot it tae. Ae Sunday in Februar, the queen wis veesitin Darnley, wha wisnae weel, at Kirk o Field. Durin her veesit, ye played dice in Darnley's bedchaumer wi Argyll and Huntly, while *Mary* wis bletherin tae her husband. Meanwhile, as ye kent, a gang o men were packin the cellars and the doonstairs chaumer wi gunpooder. *Mary* wis back at Holyrood by 11.30pm. A wee while efter 2am, there wis a flash and a muckle bang. The hoose wis blawn tae bits but the body o Darnley wis fund in the gairden athoot a merk on it. There wis a lot o rumours and mony theories aboot the assassination. Ye were even tried for it at the Tolbooth in Edinburgh, but the judges were Argyll and Huntly sae ye kent ye wad get aff. Then ye wheeched *Mary* awa and mairrit her. Naebody wis happy aboot it. Ye were gey coorse. Fowk were fair offendit at yer language at the waddin feast. Ye made enemies for yersel at hame and in England. Then the lords rase agin ye and *Mary*. The twa airmies met at Carberry hill and *Mary* surrendered. Ye rade aff and left *Mary* ahint. Efter mony adventures, ye made a confession and deed at Dragsholm Castle in Denmark. Yer mummified corpse wis fund there in 1858 and it is said that ye still haunt the castle.

Questions tae think aboot

Did ye ivvir think aboot *Mary* eftir ye rade awa?

Whit wey did ye find it necessary tae yaise coorse wirds? Dae ye no ken that it's no big and it's no clivvir?

Dae ye haunt Dragsholm Castle? Honest?

The Executioner



Whan Mary cam oot o Fotheringay Castle and walked tae the platform wi the block on it, she fair tuik yer breath awa. She wis tall, and a bit fat gettin, but she wis ivry inch a queen. In ae haund she haed an ivory crucifix and a prayer buik in the ithir.

She luikit ye in the een and smiled at ye. She knelt doon wi dignity and ye chappit her heid aff. Then ye picked up her heid by the hair tae shaw it tae awbody, as wis the custom, and the heid fell oot o the wig. Then her wee dug ran oot fae unner her skirt, yelpin and howlin.

Questions tae think about

Whaur wis Fotheringay?

Dae ye speak the same way as awbody else?

Hoo did ye feel whan her heid fell on the flair?

Dae ye like yer job?

Did ye feel sorry for Mary?

Michael McAspel

Ye'll hae tae mak a BIG REID BUIK wi awbody's scripts. It's your job tae plan oot the best order tae bring in the characters. Ye'll need tae write yer ain introduction tae the show, and say that the special person on the show is *Mary Queen o Scots*. Then ye'll need tae gie each individual character a wee mystery build up lang the lines o

"Tae tell us whit ye were like as bairn.....somebody ye've nae seen since 1548.....yer ain mither,.....*Mary o Guise!*

Leave wee pauses sae that Mary can think tae hersel wha it micht be.

At the end o the show ye can say a few wirds about whit kind o a life *Mary* haed, thank awbody for takkin pairt and end by gien the buik tae *Mary* wi the wirds :

Mary Queen o Scots, This is Your Life.

Time Line

8th December **1542** *Mary's birthday.*

14th December **1552** *Her faither, James V, deed.*

9th September **1543** *Mary crooned at Stirling.*

July **1548** *Mary left for France.*

24th April **1558** *Mary merrit Francis.*

10th July **1559** *Mary wis queen o France.*

5th December **1560** *Francis deed.*

19th August **1561** *Mary gets back tae Leith.*

29th July **1565** *Mary merrit Darnley.*

9th Mairch **1566** *Rizzio murdered.*

19th June **1566** *Prince James born.*

10th Februar **1567** *Darnley blawn up at Kirk o Field.*

15th May **1567** *Mary merrit Bothwell.*

15th June **1567** *Mary and Bothwell confrontit by the rebel lords at Carberry hill.
Bothwell did a runner.*

17th June **1567** *Mary pit in prison in Loch Leven Castle.*

29th July **1567** *Baby James crooned king.*

8th Februar **1587** *Mary Queen o Scots got her heid chappit aff.*

[This version o Mary Queen o Scots, This is Yer Life wis adapted fae teachin materials prepared by **Fiona Edwards of Yester Primary School, Gifford**. SLD are grateful tae her for permission tae yaise this idea.]

Second World War

WHIT DID YE DAE IN THE WAR, GREAT-GRANNIE?

'I had two evacuees. Well, we all had to do our bit and it wasn't easy you know. They didn't know how to eat, they didn't even know how to speak, come to that. You couldn't understand a word they were saying. All you could get them to eat was fish and chips and pies from the baker. In spite of rationing, I always managed to put good wholesome food on the table and they just turned up their noses at it. And I blame them for your Uncle George's hair. Yes, I know it's a bit grey now but when he was a wee boy he had the most beautiful golden curls. I had to cut them all off and wash his hair with that awful tarry shampoo. It was never the same again. They had nits. Nits! And they screamed blue murder when you put them in the bath. We managed to get along all right. And I had to do it all by myself. Your great-grandfather was away in Burma by this time. I suppose it was hard for them too but they really didn't seem to appreciate the opportunity they were being given. They'd never even seen a cow. Terrified to go to the foot of the garden in case the cows were in the field. I did my best for them, I really did, but they were difficult children, very difficult children. No, they didn't stay very long. They went back to Glasgow.'

Interrogating the text:

1. Whit did the evacuees like tae eat?
2. Why micht it hae been hard for the wifie tae provide guid halesome food?
3. Whit was Uncle George's hair like when he was wee.
4. Whit speylt his hair whan he wis a bairn?
5. Whaur was the wifie's husband?
6. Why were the evacuees feart tae gang tae the fuit o the gairden?
7. Why were they feart o coos?
8. Whaur has the evacuees come frae?

Atween the lines:

1. Whit wad thae twa bairns hae felt like?
2. Did they really no ken whit wey tae speak? Whit wey did this wifie no ken whit they were sayin? Wad they ken whit the wifie is sayin?
3. Why did the wifie get aw het up about nits? Whit dae we dae about nits noo?
4. Why wad they nae want tae tak a bath?
5. Whit kind o hoose dae ye think the evacuees micht hae come frae?
6. Whit aw can ye tell about the wifie? Whit kind o hoose micht she hae? Was she a kind wifie?

Imagine the bairns had just been taen back tae the wifie's hoose frae the Toon Hall whaur the evacuees were gien oot tae the village faimlies. The wifie has done her best tae mak a wee pairty tea wi sandwiches and wee cakes (made wi poodert egg). Ae bairn's needin the toilet. Improvise the scene tae show whit wey communication braks doon. (Ye micht like tae yaise words like *lavvy*, *cludgie*, *burstin*, *haudin-on*)

I was richt gled o them. It took a bittie gettin used til. They didna ken much aboot onything tae stert wi, but, och, they tuik tae it like deuks tae wattir. I'd a couple o lambs needin bottle fed the first year and the wee lass fair enjoyed at. Did it afore she went tae the scuil in the mornin and wis straicht in tae see them the meenit she wis back. An the laddie wisna verra strang for the age o him, like, but willin. Could nivvir get him near the horse though. He was aye sayin A should hae a tractor. Ma ain bairns thocht themsels the bees knees teachin thae city bairns the ins an oots o aathing. They got up tae some rare ploys the lot o them. They missed their ain hame, but aince or twice we sent a hen or a drap o honey tae Glesca in the post and we said it was their pey for helpin aboot the place.

This is the kind o wifie that wid mak sure the bairns wrote hame regularly. Whit kind o thing micht they pit in thair letters?

Whit did we hae?

The hoose:

Electric licht or gas?

Cauldpress?

Stoor sooker?

TV?

Radio? Na. It was the wireless. Whit wey did ye run a wireless gin ye didnae hae the electric? Whit programmes did ye listen til. 'This is the BBC Home Service.' Whit accent did broadcasters hae? Was the wireless on aw the time? Imagine hoo quate it maun hae been!

Whit wey did ye heat the hoose? Whaur did the coal come frae? Minin was a reserved occupation.

Duvets?

Whit were yer claes made o? Whaur did the cotton and the linen and the wool come frae?

The shops

Nae self-service. Nae supermarkets.

Nae polybags. Broon paper pokes.

Nae clever tills tae dae the addin up for ye. Maistlike the assistant wad dae it in her heid it, if it was a big sum, she'd dae it on yer paper poke. Nae Euros. Nae decimal money. Poonds shillins and pence and ha'pennies and farthings. £.s.d. (This can from Latin, Libelli, sestercii and denarii, three denominations of roman coins.)

There wis twinty shillins in the pund.

There was twal pence tae a shillin.

Twa halfpennies tae the penny and fower farthings tae a penny.

Shillings and pence were written like this:

3/6 is three shillins and saxpence. 10/- is ten shillins exactly.

Then aw the coins had their ain names. A ha'penny was a bawbee. A saxpence was a tanner. A shillin was a bob. There was a twa-bob bit or florin. Then there was the hauf-croon; that was twa and six (2/6).

Twa ten bob notes made a pund.

Shop assistants had tae be awfae guid at mental arithmetic.

If A bocht fower pies at tuppence (2d) each and A gied the baker a bob, whit cheynge wad A get?

Whit does twa tanners mak?

Whit does eleven pence plus tenpence mak?

Ye had five bob and ye had tae pit hauf o it in the bank, whit wad ye be left wi?

Hoo mony hauf-croons mak a pund?

Did ye learn yer times tables? Did ye learn them up tae 10 times 10? Why did yer granny need learn them up tae 12 times 12?

Ane for the smerties: If A bocht twal rolls o wallpaper at three and tuppence threefarthings ($3\frac{2}{3}$) a roll, whit wad it cost awthegither? (Yer grannie could hae done this staundin on her heid by primary 5.)