

The Tale o' Tam o' Shanter

Useful resources

These resources are simply a taster – there are many useful resources available online, in libraries, or, of course, by visiting the locations or museums mentioned.

WEBSITES

Background to Robert Burns

<http://www.robertburns.org>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/robertburns/>

<http://www.burnsmuseum.org.uk>

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/scotlandshistory/jacobitesenlightenmentclearances/robertburns/index.asp>

Information on Tam o' Shanter

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zwsffg8/revision>

<http://digital.nls.uk/robert-burns/tam-o-shanter/index.html>

<http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/alloway/tamoshanter/>

TEACHING PACK RESOURCES

Many of the resources are shared between the 3 groups – encouraging crossover between the three Primary levels.

RESOURCE A – Hot-seating

RESOURCE B – Examples of translations from Scots to English

RESOURCE C – Illustration example of quill and manuscript

RESOURCE D – Example of mind-mapping

RESOURCE E – Empty Book

RESOURCE F – Portrait Frame

Did you know..?

- It was thought that Burns was planning to leave Ayrshire in 1786. He planned to go to Jamaica.
- The first country to honour Burns with a commemorative stamp was the Soviet Union. It marked the 160th anniversary of Burns' death in 1956.
- The city of Atlanta, Georgia in the United States of America has a life-sized replica of the cottage Burns was born in. It was built by the Burns Club of Atlanta in 1911.
- American fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger claims to be a direct descendant of Robert Burns!
- A Man's a Man for a' That was chosen as the official opening song for the new Scottish Parliament in 1999.
- The world's largest Burns' collection is thought to be in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, which includes the poet's works translated into more than 30 languages.
- At pedestrian crossings in Japan, the sound indicating that a walker can cross is a rendition of Coming Through The Rye.
- In 2009, Burns was the first person to feature on the side of a Coke bottle, the only occasion to date where Coca-Cola has designated a design to one nation.
- Auld Lang Syne is recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as being one of the top three most popular songs in the English language. The other two are Happy Birthday and For He's a Jolly Good Fellow.
- A miniature book of Robert Burns' poetry was carried into orbit by astronaut Nick Patrick on a two week space mission in 2010, completing a 5.7 million mile trip and 217 orbits of the Earth.
- Burns based the character of Tam o' Shanter on Douglas Graham (1739–1811), a friend who lived at Shanter Farm, about half a mile inland from the fishing village of Maidens in South Ayrshire, near Kirkoswald.