

Famous Scots – Robert the Bruce

About His Early Life

Robert the Bruce was born on 11th July, 1274. He was born into a noble family that was distantly related to the Scottish royal family. He was brought up at Turnberry Castle.

Claim to the Throne

Robert the Bruce's grandfather had tried, and failed, to take over the Scottish throne between 1290 and 1292. This led Bruce and his father to support the English King's, Edward I, invasion of Scotland as they hoped to gain the throne themselves. However, Edward decided he wanted to be King of England and Scotland!

Robert the Bruce, like William Wallace, wanted the English removed from Scotland. However, unlike Wallace, he fought neither at the Battle of Stirling Bridge or Falkirk.

Following the Scots defeat at Falkirk, Bruce replaced Wallace as Guardian of Scotland. He also later came to a peace agreement with Edward, while Wallace was abroad, in the hope that Edward might give him the throne of Scotland.

Murderer

One of Robert the Bruce's greatest rivals for the Scottish throne was John Comyn. The pair quarrelled in 1306. Famously, this quarrel led to Bruce stabbing Comyn in a church in Dumfries. Consequently, he was excommunicated by the Pope (this means he was no longer allowed to take part in communion, an important celebration in the Christian faith). In addition, Edward, the English King, outlawed him.



Date of Birth: 11th July, 1274

Date of Death: 7th June, 1329

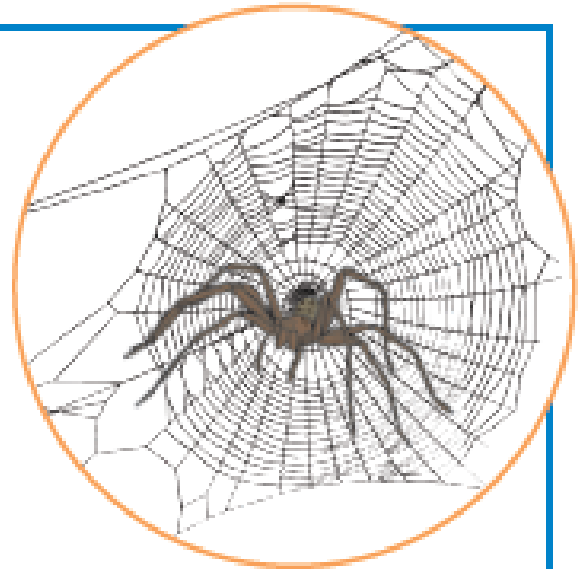
Occupation: King of Scotland



Fight for the Crown

Despite his excommunication and outlawing, Robert declared his right to the Scottish throne and at the Palace of Scone was crowned on 25th March, 1306. This sparked a civil war as well as a war with England.

Later in 1306, Robert the Bruce was thrown off the throne by Edward and his English army, who then imprisoned his wife and daughters. In desperation, Robert fled to Ireland.



The Spider

While in hiding in Ireland, Bruce supposedly stayed in a cold, miserable cave and was ready to give up on his claim to the throne. However, it is said that while he was thinking about giving up he noticed a spider hanging from a beam above his head. The spider was trying to reach the next beam. The legend says that the spider attempted to do this six times, however, each time it failed. Robert had failed to defeat the English on six occasions and so he saw himself in this little spider. However, the spider tried again and on the seventh attempt, it managed to swing onto the next wooden beam. This is said to have inspired Bruce to return to Scotland to fight once again for the crown.

The Fight Continued

Having returned from Ireland, Bruce fought against both the English and the supporters of other claimants to the Scottish throne. Famously, he defeated the English at the Battle of Bannockburn in June 1314. He also orchestrated the capture of Berwick in 1318. However, Edward II, who had become King of England after his father's death, was determined to take over Scotland.

Declaration of Arbroath

In 1320, Robert the Bruce and 39 Scottish nobles sent the Declaration of Arbroath to the Pope. It declared that Scotland was a free country and had the right to defend itself.



Recognition

In 1324, Robert the Bruce was recognised as the King of an independent Scotland by the Pope. England was facing its own internal problems after Edward II was murdered in 1328. Bruce did not waste this opportunity and he led an army into northern England. This forced the English to recognise him as King of Scotland and the right of Scotland to be independent.



Death

Robert the Bruce, or King Robert I, died on 7th June, 1329. He had requested that his heart should be buried in the Holy Land but having only made it as far as Spain, it was brought back to Scotland. It is buried in Melrose Abbey. His body was buried in Dunfermline.

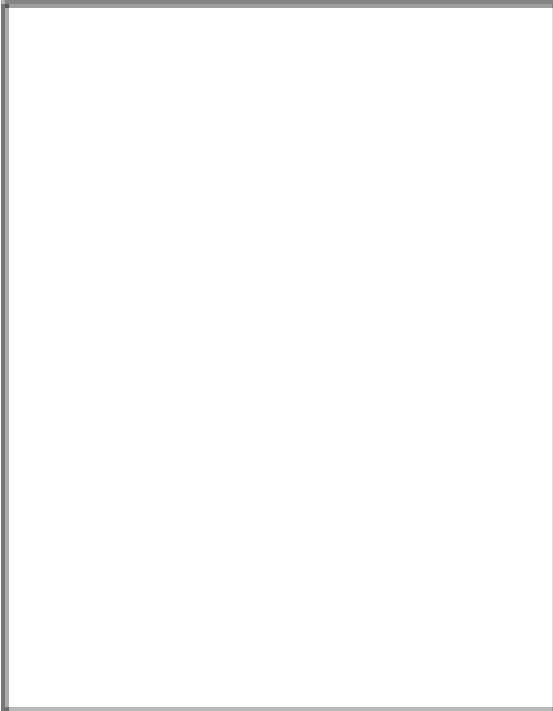
Photograph of Melrose Abbey



Robert the Bruce Fact File

CfE link: I can investigate a Scottish historical theme to discover how past events or the actions of individuals or groups have shaped Scottish society. SOC 2-02a

I can discuss why people and events from a particular time in the past were important, placing them within a historical sequence. SOC 2-06a



When was Robert the Bruce born?

Who was Robert the Bruce?

Facts about Robert the Bruce's life:

What happened to Robert the Bruce?

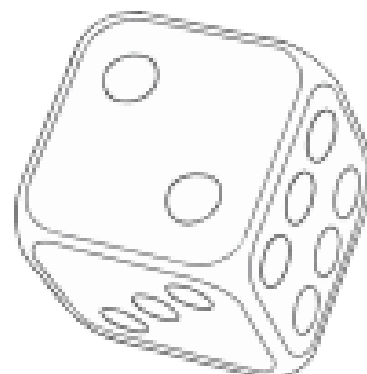
Dice Roll Investigation

I can identify events where the chance of one will not be affected by the occurrence of the other.
(ACMSPD94)

Roll one dice 12 times and record each roll as a tally mark.

Equipment I will need:

- 1 x dice
- Pencil
- Activity sheet



Instructions:

1. Roll the dice.
2. Record the number shown as a tally mark in the correct space in the table below.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 eleven more times (so that you have rolled the dice 12 times).

Dice Roll Results for 12 rolls:

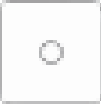
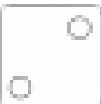
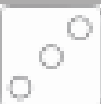
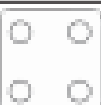
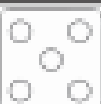

| Number | | Tally |
|--------|--|-------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |
| 6 | | |

You are now going to repeat the investigation but for 24 rolls. Make a prediction on what you think the results will be. Will it be the same as your first set? Why/why not?

My prediction is: _____

Dice Roll Investigation

Dice Roll Results for 24 rolls:

| Number | | Tally |
|--------|---|-------|
| 1 |  | |
| 2 |  | |
| 3 |  | |
| 4 |  | |
| 5 |  | |
| 6 |  | |

Was your prediction correct? Why/why not?

If you were to complete this chance experiment again for 48 rolls, do you think the results would be the same? Why/why not?

If you rolled the number 5 ten times, does this mean that the number 5 will be rolled the same number of times the next time you complete this activity? Why/why not?



Coin Flip Investigation

Name: _____

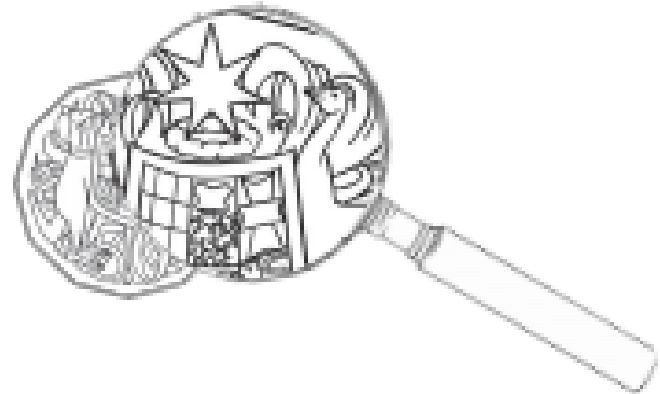
Date: _____

I can identify events where the chance of one will not be affected by the occurrence of the other.
(ACMSP094)

Flip one coin 10 times and record each flip as a tally mark.

Equipment I will need:

- 1 x coin
- pencil
- activity sheet



Instructions:

1. Flip the coin.
2. Record the result as a tally mark whether the coin landed on 'heads' or 'tails' in the correct space in the table below.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 nine more times (so that you have flipped the coin 10 times).

Coin Flip Results for 10 Flips:

| | Tally | Total |
|-------|-------|-------|
| Heads | | |
| Tails | | |

You are now going to repeat the experiment but for 20 flips. Make a prediction on what you think the results will be. Will it be the same as your first set? Why/why not?

My prediction is: _____

Complete the coin flip chance experiment again.

Coin Flip Results for 20 Flips:

| | Tally | Total |
|-------|-------|-------|
| Heads | | |
| Tails | | |

Was your prediction correct? Why/why not?

If you were to complete this chance experiment again for 40 flips, do you think the results would be the same? Why/why not?

If you flipped heads five times and tails fifteen times, does this mean that tails will also have the larger number of flips next time you complete this activity? Why/why not?

