



Scott for Schools: Resource Guide and Information for Teachers

What is 'Scott for Schools'?

Created as part of the AHRC project, 'Editing Walter Scott's Poetry: Engaging New Audiences', this collection of resources invites teachers and their pupils to explore the imaginative world of one of Scotland's most influential poets and authors, Walter Scott. Though once one of the most popular and widely-read novelists and poets of his time, today Scott is less-well remembered than his near-contemporary Robert Burns, and certainly less utilised in teaching the Curriculum. The resources seek to redress this, illuminating the versatility of Scott's life and works in supporting a breadth of cross-curricular learning. The resources have been designed using the Curriculum for Excellence, contributing to learning experiences and outcomes in subject areas such as Literacy & English, Social Studies, Expressive Arts, and Languages. Through the resources, pupils will be able to explore writing technologies, styles and processes; they will be encouraged to find connections between their own lives and those of people living in the past and consider how Scotland's identity has developed in the past two centuries; and they will be invited to respond creatively to poetry and prompts through a range of artistic activities. As well as contributing to learning in specific subject areas, it is hoped that these resources also contribute to cross-curricular learning, enabling pupils to improve their reading, writing, speaking, listening, group work, and research skills. Though designed to enhance learning in Literacy & English, the poetry is explored in shorter excerpts, and activities in response vary widely from writing to discussion, games, crafts, editing and more.





What are the resources?

The resources fall into the following categories:

- **Synopses:** Brief overviews of the poems used in the activities, available both as summaries to aid teacher preparation, and short audio descriptions for in-class support.
- **Standalone activities:** Activities that have been designed in order to be carried out without prior knowledge of Scott or his work, though also can be added together with other activities to make a more fulsome lesson or project on the topic.
- **Short poems activities:** Using short excerpts of eight of Scott's poems, in these activities pupils can analyse, discuss and interpret a range of poems and poetic themes.
- **Reading activities:** These activities aim to enhance and support pupils in developing their confidence as readers who can observe, interpret and gain understanding of information presented in different texts.
- **Second Level Lessons:** These activities have been designed for pupils at Second Level, contributing to subject areas such as Social Studies and English and Literacy. Topics include 'Writing about Place' which can contribute well to local, place-based learning, and cross-curricular activities in support of this.
- **Third Level Lessons:** Designed for pupils at Third Level, these activities are more in-depth than the standalone activities and tasks. There's a four-part lesson on one of Scott's long narrative poems, The Lord of the Isles- and several of these activities within this section also focus on place-making and national identity within writing. An activity about Editing offers interesting opportunities to discuss the importance of editing and close reading in our contemporary culture.



Brief descriptions of each individual activity within these categories can be found in the table below, together with the curriculum learning Levels for which they are most suitable.

Resource	Description	Suitability
Standalone activities		
<i>An Introduction to Walter Scott</i>	A PowerPoint resource containing information about Scott's life and work, including his poetry. The PowerPoint is designed to be interactive, with activities and discussion points which help pupils to find connections between Scott's life and interests and their own.	All Levels
<i>Miniature Masterpieces</i>	A craft activity with instructions of how make miniature books. This activity is suggested as an add-on activity for the Game, but could also be used as a standalone activity, or even with a creative writing activity which could be written into the books.	All Levels
<i>How to write a poem</i>	This booklet guides pupils through the simple steps of writing a poem, focusing on matching and making rhyming words, and reflecting on a real event to write a poem of their own.	First Level
<i>Game</i>	This board game introduces pupils to Scott through facts and fragments of poetry revealed through the process of the game. It fosters experience and confidence in	First and Second Level



	reading aloud by inviting pupils to read out short excerpts of poetry in order to make their way around the board.	
<i>A Story in Scots</i>	This activity invites pupils to engage with the Scots language, exploring passages from a short story by Scott. Pupils can explore word meaning in a Tarsia puzzle, and through both group and individual work gain familiarity with reading and understanding Scots. The lesson includes a chance for pupils to retell the story in their own words- using Scots to do if they would like.	First and Second Level
<i>Story cards</i>	This deck of 25 Story cards features images of items from both the collections of the University of Aberdeen, and from Scott's home in the Scottish Borders, Abbotsford. With prompt questions, the Story cards invite pupils to investigate the object before them, as well as imagine their own stories using the object as inspiration. These cards can be used in a variety of ways, but our suggestions include how to use the cards in talking activities, writing descriptions, and creative writing as a group.	First and Second Level
<i>Short poems activities</i>		
<i>Short poems activity</i>	This activity involves eight short excerpts from Scott's poem, accompanied by three understanding questions and one open-ended prompt, in order to support and encourage understanding of the poem. These activities are most clearly linked to Literacy & English, including interpreting and analysing material, understanding and recognising literary techniques, and forming and sharing ideas and opinions.	Second Level
<i>Reading activities</i>		



Who was Walter Scott (reading task)	In this activity, pupils can find out about Scott's life and works whilst honing their reading and comprehension skills. Pupils are invited to find facts and pieces of information, as well as reflect and offer their own opinions based on their reading.	Second Level
The Bard's Incantation	An activity about a poem written by Scott named 'The Bard's Incantation'.	Second Level
Second Level Lessons		
'Jock of Hazeldean'	In this activity, pupils explore Scott's short poem 'Jock of Hazeldean' in different styles and formats, and answer comprehension questions, assessing how format contributes to meaning.	Second Level
The Hunt	This activity uses the Classics Comic's version of a scene from <i>The Lady of the Lake</i> to encourage pupils to think of the same event from different perspectives. Using a PowerPoint and lesson plan, this activity invites pupils to retell the poem in their own way, and to imagine what happens next, conveying this in a form of their own choosing.	Second Level
Letter-writing	This resource is comprised of a PowerPoint, lesson plan, drawing activity and writing activity. Pupils will learn about correspondence and communication in the nineteenth-century, including the practicalities and technologies of writing in the past.	Second Level
The Lay of the Last Minstrel	This activity focuses on Scott's first narrative poem, and explore the creation of characters, involving close reading as well as creative writing.	Second Level
Writing about Place	This activity also focuses on <i>The Lay of the Last Minstrel</i> , and descriptions of place. It can be used to compare descriptions of different places, or could be tailored to fit within a 'local history' project, taking inspiration from Scott's writing about local	Second Level



	landmarks to create a poem or piece of writing about something nearby to your school.	
Third Level Lessons		
<i>The Lord of the Isles</i>	A four-part resource on <i>The Lord of the Isles</i> that invites pupils to explore and engage with writing, reading, research, presentation, and critical thinking skills. This activity, comprising of lesson plans and PowerPoints, can be completed as a one single activity, or all four can be used together to make a longer activity.	Third Level
<i>Ballads</i>	A lesson on one of Scott's ballads, 'The Wife of Usher's Well'.	Third Level
<i>Writing the Nation</i>	A unit (about four lessons) that compares an extract from one of Walter Scott's poems to an extract from a twentieth-century Chinese short story.	Third Level
<i>Editing</i>	A unit (two lessons) on editing, in which pupils learn about the editing process behind Scott's poetry, and edit their own work.	Third Level
<i>The World Around Us</i>	A unit (two lessons) on writing about environment and place, using a passage from <i>The Lay of the Last Minstrel</i> as inspiration before pupils write their own descriptions of place. This activity has opportunities to embrace discussions around responsible citizenship and environmental responsibilities.	Third Level



How to use the resources: Navigation

On the 'Scott for Schools' homepage, you will find several 'tiles' with the names of the categories given above. By selecting a tile, you will be taken to the appropriate activity page and will be able to peruse the activities available, which can be downloaded, adapted and printed off for classroom use.

Please note, for the Synopses, Standalone, Short Poems and Reading Activities, you will be able to access activities by clicking directly onto the link provided. For several of the more involved units and lessons, you may need to follow more than one link to obtain all of the resources you require. You are more than welcome, however, to use individual activities from the longer units, using the activities within this resource suite in the way that best supports the learning requirement of you and your class.

We would recommend a good starting place for most activities and lessons would be the 'Introduction to Walter Scott' PowerPoint. This PowerPoint consists of slides on key points about Walter Scott's life and work. Each one is accompanied by an engagement activity that encourages the pupils to make connections between Scott and their own lives. It is recommended that one or two of these be chosen and the rest deleted before the PowerPoint is used.

How to use these resources: Teaching

The activities in this resource can be used in different ways:

- As stand-alone activities that can be used in small periods of time, as chosen by the teacher or supply teacher.



- As follow-on activities for pupils who have finished their other work.
- To support pre-existing literature units.
- As lesson-long workshops.
- As full units.
- As preparation for or follow-on from trips to Abbotsford, Scott's home in the Borders.

Suggested Learning Journeys

Below are some suggestions as to how the activities might fit together to make projects and units or might act as a prelude to a visit to Abbotsford, the Home of Sir Walter Scott.

Level	Topic	Resources	Curriculum Areas	Additional Activities
First Level	Who was Walter Scott?	• An Introduction to Walter Scott (PowerPoint) • Miniature Masterpieces • Walter Scott Board Game	Social Studies Expressive Arts	How to Write a Poem
First Level	Poetry Detectives	• An Introduction to Walter Scott (PPT) • Short Poems Activity • How to Write a Poem	Literacy and English Social Studies Expressive Arts	Story cards



		• Letter-writing		
Second Level	Exploring and Describing Place	• An Introduction to Walter Scott (PPT) • Writing about Place • Artists Books	Social Studies Expressive Arts	A visit to Abbotsford
Second Level	Telling and retelling Tales	• An Introduction to Walter Scott (PPT) • Story cards • The Hunt	Social Studies Literacy and English Expressive Arts	
Third Level	<i>The Lay of the Last Minstrel</i>	• An Introduction to Walter Scott (PPT) • The World Around Us • Writing the Nation • Editing	Social Studies Literacy and English	<i>The Lord of the Isles</i> (4 units)
Third Level	<i>The Lord of the Isles</i>	• An Introduction to Walter Scott (PPT) • <i>The Lord of the Isles</i> (4 Units)		<i>The Lay of the Last Minstrel</i>