

St. Andrew's Day – 5 ways to celebrate!

As St. Andrew's Day approaches, many schools will be thinking about how best to incorporate studying Scotland in lessons over the next few weeks. Scotland's national day on November 30th is a great opportunity to capitalise on learners' curiosity about their country – especially in the areas of Expressive Arts, Literacy and Social Studies.

The Scots Language Coordinator at Education Scotland and Education Specialist at Scots Language Centre have compiled the following list of suggestions for meaningful learning about Scotland during November. There is a range of fun, exciting activities here, all of which will deepen and enhance learners' knowledge of Scotland.

1) Research St Andrew

Have a look at Visit Scotland's page about [St Andrew and the Scottish flag](#), read about the different variations in Scots Language Centre's feature, '[St Andrew - what's in a name?](#)' or watch Scotland.org's video [here](#). Learners can create their own webpage, blog or leaflet about St Andrew and the saltire, using Scots.

2) Research your local area

Using [this resource](#) from the National Improvement Hub, take an interdisciplinary approach by looking at Scotland's place names. Children and young people could find out what their school's Scots or Gaelic name means in English, or explore the place-names of their surrounding area. A fun task to do with learners is to get them to create a map of their local area, using the Scots names for landmarks. Learners in the Senior Phase could be challenged further by completing one of the activities from the Association of Scottish Literary Studies' resource, '[The Place Names of Scotland](#)'. If you wish to take this to the next stage, why not share your local area writings with a partner school through a [Keen tae Ken yir Kin](#) partnership?

3) Share a Scots saying

The Scots Language Centre website celebrates diversity in Scotland on St Andrew's day with their frequently shared image featuring the saying 'We are aw Jock Tamson's bairns' - find it [here](#). Following



initial discussion of the phrase and the image, learners can create an illustrated poster or postcard featuring their own Scots phrase or one that they have heard from a friend or family member, such as 'Whit's fir ye will no go by ye', 'Up tae high doh' or 'Mony a mickle mak a muckle'. Why not set this as a homework task to engage parents in St Andrew's Day celebrations?

4) Read some poetry from our nation's Makar

Delve into the range of poems from Jackie Kay, our former makar, on the [Scottish Poetry Library's website](#). Young people in the Senior Phase can find poetry from the set texts for National 5 and Higher English, but children of all ages can enjoy reading and listening to Jackie Kay's poetry. *Baggage*, *Fiere*, *Grandpa's Soup*, *Bed* and *Threshold* are all notable for their use of Scots.

5) Keek through a wee windae

[Wee Windaes](#), a website from National library of Scotland, features digitised older Scots texts. [The Lairnin Kist](#) features a range of teaching and learning resources for Primary and Secondary school children, for example:

- [A writing activity](#) for Primary children, inspired by the writing of Allan Ramsay
- [Group discussion activities](#) for Primary and Secondary children, inspired by the writing of Alexander Wilson
- [A storytelling activity](#) aimed at children in the upper Primary stage.

If you are new to Scots – and the history of Scots – why not begin with Education Scotland's video, the [animated history of the Scots Language](#)?