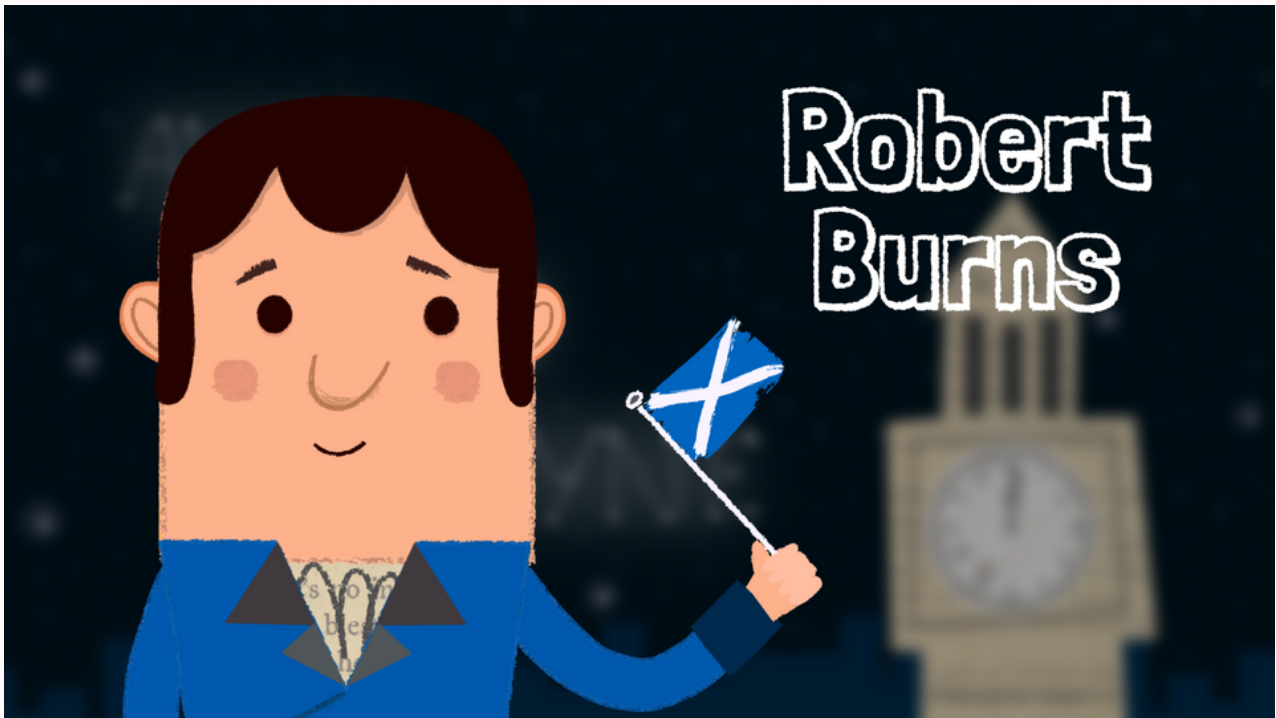


Miniclips: Global Celebrations and
Commemorations

Burns Night



About this video



MINICLIPS: GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS AND COMMEMORATIONS

Burns Night

Widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland, Robert Burns reinvigorated the Scots language in a time when it was in danger of disappearing. But how did this lead to a celebration being formed in his name? And how is Burns Night celebrated today? This Miniclip explores the life and times of Robert Burns, his groundbreaking poetry and the origins of Burns Night, which takes place on the twenty-fifth of January each year.

Key questions:

Why is Robert Burns remembered so fondly by Scottish people? And why is he considered Scotland's national Bard?

Key vocabulary:

Rupert Burns

poet

bard

Scottish

Scotland

Resources required:

It might be useful to have some of Robert Burns's poems accessible for teachers to share with their children.

Before watching

Make Predictions & Activate Prior Knowledge

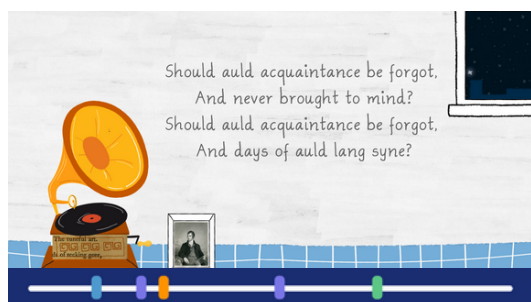
As a class, discuss the following questions:

- Have you ever heard of Robert Burns?
- What important people do we remember and celebrate?
- Why are certain people remembered and celebrated?
- Can you think of any poems that make you proud to be who you are?

Whilst watching



Watching as a class



Watch the interactive video as a class and ask students to respond to the prompts throughout the interactive.



Watching individually



Have students watch the interactive created for immediate feedback and solo viewing.

After watching

Below are three activities to extend the learning from the video and to check for understanding.

Activity 1: Robert Burns Non-Chronological Report

Students should use plain paper or a scaffold template to create a non-chronological report about Robert Burns.

The non-chronological report should include:

- Key facts, figures, and information about Robert Burns from the video.
- A picture (either printed or drawn), headings, facts, captions, and labels
- Eye-catching elements that make it interesting to the reader.

Extension activity

Students could use ICT equipment and books to research another important figure in Scottish history such as J M Barie or Robert the Bruce.

Support (to help struggling learners)

Students should be given a word mat containing key vocabulary. They could also be given a fact sheet about Robert Burns to refer to when writing their report, and use a scaffold template to help them set out their work.



After watching

Activity 2: Exploring the Scots Language

Introduce your students to some of Robert Burns' poetry. Some examples could include *Scottish Rain*, *A Red, Red Rose*, *Mince and Tatties*, or *The Selkirk Grace*. You could use a poem that is written in both Scots and English (e.g. *Love and Liberty* aka. *The Jolly Beggars*).

Have students read the poem to themselves quietly, and reflect on what they think it is about. Then read the poem as a class and discuss the Scots language featured in them.

Ask students:

- Are there any words that are familiar to you?
- What do you think they mean?
- How do they make you feel?
- Why do you think Robert Burns used the Scots language and English language in his poems?

Extension activity

Have students practice a poem by Robert Burns and have a recite-off. In small groups, students can read a stanza each increasing in speed each time. Ensure they practice the Scots language portions carefully and use this exercise to improve their accuracy and pronunciation of the language.

Support (to help struggling learners)

Provide translations, word banks, or annotated versions of the poems that compare Scots words to English words to help students understand the poems as they read them.



After watching

Activity 3: Burns Night Invitation

Using information about Burns Night from the video, students should create an invitation to their Burns Night Supper.

The invitation should:

- Include all the important information, such as the date, the reason for celebrating, the menu, and a list of activities/entertainment that will take place.
- Be eye-catching and interesting to look at, whilst maintaining a Scottish theme.

Extension activity

Students could use ICT equipment and books to research another Scottish celebration and make comparisons with Burns Night.

Support (to help struggling learners)

Students could be given a word mat with key vocabulary. They could also be given a list of things to include in their invitation, or the opportunity to watch the video again to find the key information.



Conclusion

Students should answer these questions for every lesson:

1. Answer the essential question using as much detail as you can: *Why is Robert Burns remembered so fondly by Scottish people? And why is he considered Scotland's national Bard?*
2. What questions do you still have about the content you saw in the video?