

Teacher Guide to Myth Busting

Learning Intention: To identify common misconceptions and respond appropriately through inquiry.

Success Criteria:

- 1. Identify common misconceptions about the Battle of Culloden;**
- 2. Reflect on one's own preconceptions and judgements;**
- 3. Using evidence and research to find answers;**
- 4. Articulate appropriate and correct information in response to these.**

Culloden is a place with strong stories attached to it. The site forms part of the national identity associated with Scotland and for many people, it is a place of cultural significance. Through this lesson you will encourage critical thinking, challenge your students to look further at the story of Culloden and present their ideas to the class. There is a wealth of both primary and secondary resources associated with the battle, some of which are available on site and your students will have the opportunity to work with them.

PRE-VISIT exercises:

Before the visit, organise the students into small groups or pairs. They need to choose a question and investigate as a group. When at the site, students will need to ask questions of the team on site, look through the galleries and record both answers and notes on the question framework provided.

Ask students to write down/ discuss as many as 3 things they know about Culloden already (it still works if they don't know anything). Are they confident they know these things are true or is it just something they have heard?

Prepare students for the visit by... reading the questions below and being ready to think about them, asking questions as necessary during their guided tour and experience at the visitor centre and battlefield.

Go over the question framework with the class, establishing what would go in the 'I think' category (concrete answers that they have gained while at Culloden) and what would go in the 'I wonder' category (in depth questions that they might have which require further research).

When you return to school, ask the students to reflect on the 'I wonder' category and establish where they may be able to find out more information.

Ask the groups to share their findings, either through posters to display, feedback sessions in class or through an informative first-person written report.

PRE-VISIT exercises continued:

Show students these questions before your visit. Allow them to choose 3, preferably no double-ups. They are expected to use the question framework, make notes and bring it safely back to school.

- **Why did the battle take place on a boggy moor when they knew it was difficult terrain?**
- **Why did they not fight elsewhere?**
- **Why did Prince Charles attempt to go to London after capturing Edinburgh, when he already had control of Scotland?**
- **Why didn't Prince Charles try to sign a peace treaty for an independent Scotland. Why go on to London so quickly?**
- **What were the reasons for people to join the Jacobite army?**
- **This battle was Scotland versus England.** True or False?
- **This battle was between Catholics and Protestants.** True or False?
- **If Charles Stuart and William Augustus were cousins, why were they fighting?**
- **Why didn't we remove the stone at the Field of the English?**
- **Have the graves been excavated?** Why would you or wouldn't you do this?
- **Why did Charles Stuart leave his things behind on the field?** Where are his sword and shield?
- **Prince Charles was new to Scotland. How did he have so much influence amongst the Clans?** / Why did they follow 'an outsider' who was born and raised in Rome, not Scotland?
- **Where is the Fraser stone? Why do so many people visit it today?** (Answer should involve where the Frasers stood on the battlefield, which is on NTS land, they should also make reference to celebrity and TV programs that feature Culloden)
- **Is there a list of who was fighting in each army?** (Muster role, available in book titled 'No Quarter Given' but is out of publication and government records lost).
- **Where was Prince Charles Stuart during the fight?** Where was William Augustus?
- **Were all the Jacobites Catholic?**
- **England (bad side) vs Scotland (good side).** True or False?