

William Wallace



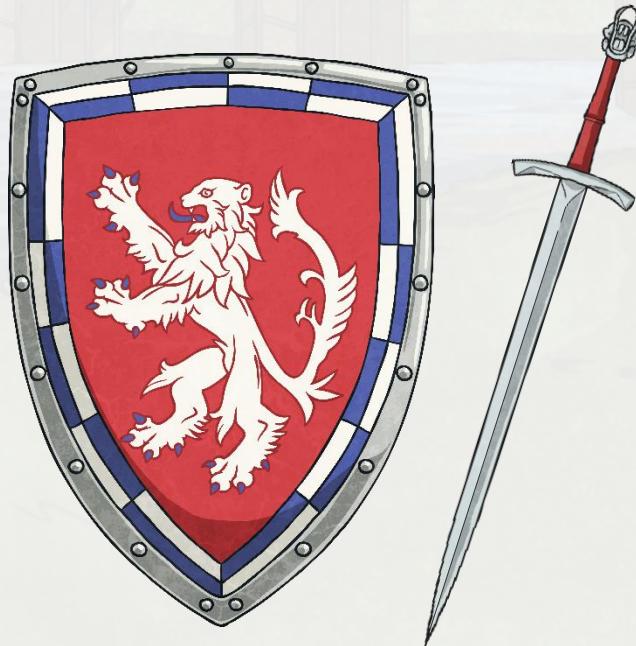
Early Life

- William Wallace was born around 1270.
- Some historians say he was born in Elderslie in Renfrewshire.
- Others say he was born in Derwent Park in Kilmarnock.
- It is generally agreed that he was born to a minor noble family. We don't know much about his early life.



William the Warrior

- In 1297, Wallace attacked Lanark, killing an English sheriff.
- This created support amongst local people and many joined the fight to drive the English out of areas around Perth and Fife.



Stirling Bridge

- In September 1297, Wallace fought against the English at Stirling Bridge.
- The English army was much larger but the Scots won due to clever tactics!
- A lot of Scots were encouraged by this victory. The English hold on Scotland was weakened.
- Following this battle, William began to send raiding parties into England.



William Knighted

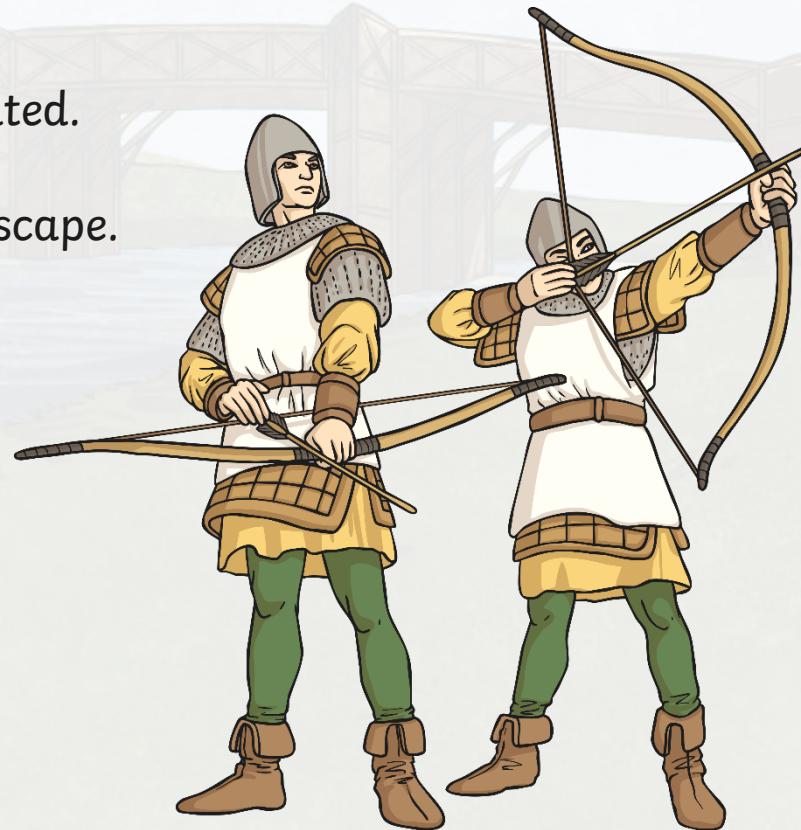
Sometime between the end of 1297 and the beginning of 1298, William was knighted by John Balliol. He was appointed 'Guardian of the Kingdom'.



John Balliol was the King of Scotland between 1292 and 1296.

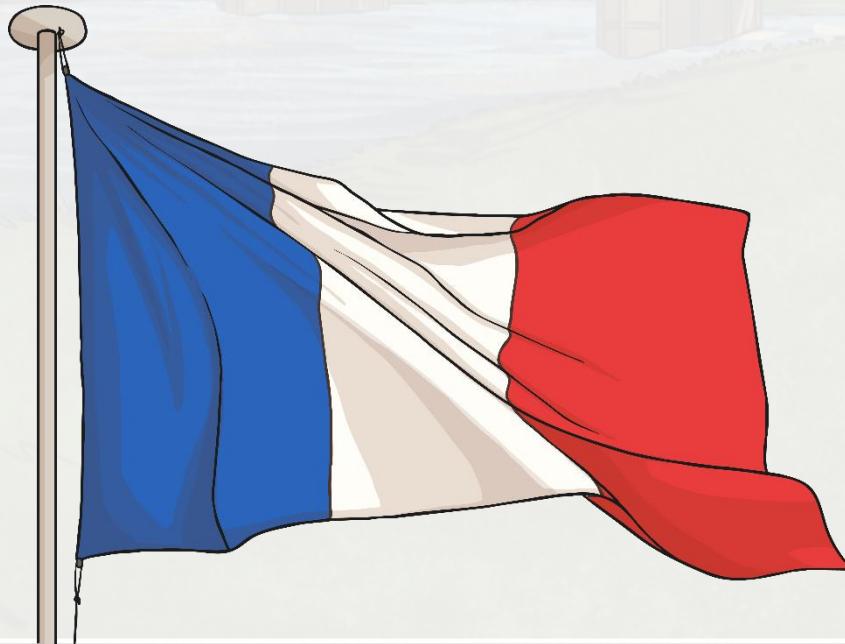
Battle of Falkirk

- Wallace again led an army against King Edward's army at Falkirk in July 1298.
- This time, the Scots were defeated.
- William Wallace was able to escape.



Wallace Abroad

- Having escaped from Falkirk and resigned the guardianship, Wallace went abroad.
- Significantly, he went to France to try and gain some support for Scotland's cause.



While Wallace Is Away...

- Meanwhile, back in Scotland, Scottish leaders, Robert the Bruce and John Comyn accepted truces with Edward.
- Edward put a price on Wallace's head, offering money to anyone who captured or killed him.



Wallace Captured

- William returned to Scotland in 1303.
- In August 1305, Wallace was captured near Glasgow.
- From there, he was taken to London where he was tried and charged with treason.



Execution

- Edward wanted to squash any future thoughts of Scottish rebellion and make an example of Wallace.
- He was executed on 23rd August, 1305.
- He was hung, drawn and quartered.
- His head was placed on London Bridge.
- His limbs were displayed in Newcastle, Berwick, Stirling and Perth.



How He Is Remembered

- 170 years after Wallace's death, a historian, Blind Harry, wrote an epic poem about the life of William Wallace. It is this poem, even though it is not accurate, that has shaped most people's opinions of Wallace.
- In 1995, Mel Gibson starred as William Wallace in the film *Braveheart* retelling the story of Wallace.
- There are over 20 monuments commemorating the life of William Wallace. The most famous of these is the Wallace Monument which stands above Stirling on Abbey Craig.

