

Robert Burns

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet and lyricist (song writer). He is known around the world as Scotland's national poet. Burns Night is celebrated every year on 25th January, Robert Burns' birthday.



Early Life

Robert Burns, also known as Robbie or Rabbie, was born on 25th January 1759 in the village of Alloway in Ayrshire, Scotland. Burns had a very humble start to life. He was the eldest of seven children and his father, William Burness, was a tenant farmer so the family often struggled for money.

Did You Know...?

The house Burns was born in is now the Robert Burns' Birthplace Museum and it is visited by over 100,000 people every year. In the museum, there are hundreds of objects that belonged to Burns such as the quills he used to write.



His Poems and Songs

From a young age, Burns worked as a farmer but his father knew education was important so he taught his children how to read and write. Some of Burns' poems were based on the things he saw whilst he was out ploughing the fields. For example, he wrote 'To a Mouse' after he turned over a field mouse's nest with his plough.

Burns' inspiration for his poems and ballads also came from falling in love. He wrote his first love song at the age of 15 but it wasn't until the age of 27 that his poems were published.

His Legacy

Burns died on 21st July 1796 at the age of 37. His funeral took place on 25th July. This was also the day his 12th child, Maxwell, was born.

Did You Know...?

After Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus, there are more statues of Robert Burns around the world than any other non-religious person; there are over 60!

One of Burns' most famous poems is Auld Lang Syne. It is sung all over the world on 31st December (Hogmanay). It is even in the Guinness Book of World Records because it is one of the three most popular songs in the English language.

Burns Night

The first Burns suppers were organised by Robert's friends, a few years after his death. They wanted to celebrate his life and poems. Today, Burns Night is celebrated all around the world.

A traditional Burns supper includes a serving of haggis, neeps (turnip) and tatties (potatoes).

Haggis is a savoury pudding traditionally made from the lining of a sheep's stomach. The stomach is stuffed with minced sheep's liver, heart, lungs, oatmeal, onion and suet. Scotch whisky is sometimes poured over the haggis before it is served.



Questions

1. Where was Robert Burns born?

2. What did Robert Burns' father do as an occupation?

3. When is Burns Night celebrated and why?

4. Tick the statements to show if they are true or false.

	True	False
Robert was raised in a wealthy family.		
Robert's father taught him to read and write.		
A traditional haggis is made from a cow's stomach.		
Robert had 13 children.		

5. Why do you think Robert's father wanted him to read and write?

6. Draw lines to match the date with the event.

25 th January 1759
25 th July 1796
21 st July 1796
31 st December

Hogmany is celebrated around the world.
Robert's son Maxwell is born.
Robert Burns was born.
Robert died at the age of 37.

7. Why do you think there are statues of Robert Burns all over the world and not just in Scotland?

8. Write two facts you have learnt about Robert Burns.

Answers

1. Where was Robert Burns born?

Robert Burns was born in Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland.

2. What did Robert Burns' father do as an occupation?

Robert Burns' father worked as a farmer.

3. When is Burns Night celebrated and why?

Burns Night is celebrated on 25th January because that was Robert Burns' birthday.

4. Tick the statements to show if they are true or false.

	True	False
Robert was raised in a wealthy family.		✓
Robert's father taught him to read and write.	✓	
A traditional haggis is made from a cow's stomach.		✓
Robert had 13 children.		✓

5. Why do you think Robert's father wanted him to read and write?

Learners' own answers, such as: Robert's father wanted him to read and write because he recognised the value of education and he wanted him to have a better life than him.

6. Draw lines to match the date with the event.

25 th January 1759	Hogmany is celebrated around the world.
25 th July 1796	Robert's son Maxwell is born.
21 st July 1796	Robert Burns was born.
31 st December	Robert died at the age of 37.

7. Why do you think there are statues of Robert Burns all over the world and not just in Scotland?

Learners' own answers, such as: I think there are statues all over the world because Robert Burns is famous in different countries.

8. Write two facts you have learnt about Robert Burns.

Learners' own responses that must include facts taken from the text.

Robert Burns

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet and lyricist. He is regarded as the national poet of Scotland and his poems and songs, written in both Scots language and standard English, are known worldwide. Burns Night is celebrated in honour of him every year on 25th January, Robert Burns' birthday.



Robert Burns, also known as Robbie or Rabbie, was born on 25th January 1759 in the village of Alloway in Ayrshire, Scotland. Burns had a very humble start to life. He was the eldest of seven children and his father, William Burness, was a tenant farmer so the family often struggled for money.

Did You Know...?

Burns was born in a house built by his father; he referred to his home as the 'auld cley biggin'. It is now the Robert Burns' Birthplace Museum and it attracts over 100,000 visitors every year. The museum is home to hundreds of artefacts belonging to Burns such as the quills he used to write his famous pieces of work.



Burns began his working life as a farmer but his father knew education was important so he taught his children how to read and write. Some of Burns most notable poems were based on the things he saw whilst he was out ploughing the fields. For example, he wrote 'To a Mouse' after he turned over a field mouse's nest with his plough.

Burns' inspiration for most of his poems and ballads came from falling in love. He wrote his first love song at the age of 15 but it wasn't until the age of 27 that his poems were published. One of his most famous love poems is 'A Red, Red, Rose.'

In 1788, the year Robert married Jean Armour, he travelled around Scotland collecting local songs and writing poems about his travels. Although Burns is regarded as a national treasure, his political views often made people question his loyalty to the Scottish crown.

Burns died on 21st July 1796 at the age of 37. His funeral took place on 25th July. This was also the day his twelfth child, Maxwell, was born.

Burns Legacy

After Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus, there are more statues of Robert Burns around the world than any other non-religious person. To date, there are over 600; 15 of which are in Scotland.

One of Burns' most famous poems is 'Auld Lang Syne'. It is sung all over the world on 31st December (Hogmanay). It is even in the Guinness Book of World Records because it is one of the three most popular songs in the English language.

Burns Night

The first Burns suppers were arranged by Robert's friends, a few years after his death. They wanted to celebrate his life and his poems. Today, Burns Night is celebrated all around the world.

A traditional Burns supper includes a serving of haggis, neeps (turnip) and tatties (potatoes).

Haggis is a savoury pudding traditionally made from the lining of a sheep's stomach. The stomach is stuffed with minced sheep's liver, heart, lungs, oatmeal, onion and suet. A dram of Scotch whisky is sometimes poured over the haggis before it is served.



Questions

1. When and where was Robert Burns born?

2. Name three Robert Burns' poems.

3. What do you think 'auld, cley biggin' means?

4. Why do you think Robert's father wanted him to read and write?

5. Find and copy a word from the text that means modest.

6. Draw lines to match the date with the event.

25 th January 1759
25 th July 1796
21 st July 1796
31 st December
April 1788

Hogmany is celebrated around the world.
Robert's son Maxwell is born.
Robert Burns was born.
Robert died at the age of 37.
Robert married Jean Armour.

7. Why do you think there are statues of Robert Burns all over the world, not just in Scotland?

8. What phrase in the text tells the reader Robert Burns is special to Scotland?

9. If you could ask Robert Burns a question what would it be?

10. Write three facts you have learnt about Robert Burns.

Answers

1. When and where was Robert Burns born?

Robert Burns was born on 25th January 1759 in Alloway, Ayrshire, Scotland.

2. Name three Robert Burns' poems.

Auld Lang Syne, To a Mouse, A Red, Red Rose

3. What do you think 'auld, cley biggin' means?

Learners' own responses.

4. Why do you think Robert's father wanted him to read and write?

Learners' own answers, such as: Robert's father wanted him to read and write because he recognised the value of education and he wanted him to have a better life than him.

5. Find and copy a word from the text that means modest.

humble

6. Draw lines to match the date with the event.

25 th January 1759	Hogmany is celebrated around the world.
25 th July 1796	Robert's son Maxwell is born.
21 st July 1796	Robert Burns was born.
31 st December	Robert died at the age of 37.
April 1788	Robert married Jean Armour.

7. Why do you think there are statues of Robert Burns all over the world, not just in Scotland?

Learners' own answers, such as: I think there are statues all over the world because Robert Burns is famous in different countries.

8. What phrase in the text tells the reader Robert Burns is special to Scotland?

national treasure

9. If you could ask Robert Burns a question what would it be?

Learners' own answers.

10. Write three facts you have learnt about Robert Burns.

Learners' own responses that must include facts taken from the text.

Robert Burns

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet and lyricist. He is fondly regarded as the national poet of Scotland and his poems and songs, written in both Scots language and standard English, are renowned worldwide.

Robert Burns, also known as Robbie or Rabbie, was born on 25th January 1759 in the village of Alloway in Ayrshire, Scotland. He was born in a modest farmhouse, built by his father William Burness, which he referred to as the 'auld cley biggin'. Burns had a very humble start to life.

He was the eldest of seven children and his father was a tenant farmer so the family often lived in poverty and hardship.

Burns began his working life as a farmer. However, his father recognised the value of education so taught all of his children how to read and write. Some of Burns' most notable poems were based on the things he observed whilst he was out ploughing the fields. For example, he wrote 'To a Mouse' after he turned over a field mouse's nest with his plough. Another of his poems called 'To a Louse' was written after he observed a louse (head lice) on a lady's bonnet in church.



The inspiration for most of his poems and ballads came from falling in love. Burns penned his first love song at the tender age of 15 but it wasn't until the age of 27 that his poems were published. One of his most famous love poems is 'A Red, Red, Rose.'

In 1788, around the time Robert married Jean Armour, he travelled around Scotland collecting local songs and writing poems about his travels. Although Burns is regarded as a national treasure, his controversial political views often made people question his loyalty to the Scottish crown.

Burns died on 21st July 1796 at the young age of 37. His funeral took place on 25th July, which was also the day his twelfth child, Maxwell, was born.

Burns Legacy

The 'auld cley biggin' is now home to the Robert Burns' Birthplace Museum. The museum attracts over 100,000 visitors every year and exhibits hundreds of artefacts belonging to Burns, including the quills he used to write some of his famous pieces of work.

After Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus, there are more statues of Robert Burns around the world than any other non-religious person. To date, there are over 600; 15 of which are in Scotland.

One of Burns' most famous poems, 'Auld Lang Syne', is sung all over the world on 31st December (Hogmanay). It is even in the Guinness Book of World Records because it is one of the three most popular songs in the English language.

Burns Night

The first Burns suppers were organised by Robert's friends, a few years after his death. They wanted to celebrate his life and his poems. Today, Burns Night is celebrated all around the world on 25th January.

The supper begins with 'The Selkirk Grace' followed by an invited speaker who recites Robert's famous poem 'Address to a Haggis'. Haggis, neeps (turnips) and tatties (potatoes) are then served. The evening usually ends with guests singing and dancing to 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Haggis is a savoury pudding traditionally made from the lining of a sheep's stomach. The stomach is stuffed with minced sheep's liver, heart, lungs, oatmeal, onion and suet. A dram of Scotch whisky is sometimes poured over the haggis before it is served.



Questions

1. Why is Burns night celebrated on 25th January?

2. Find and copy a word in the text that means affectionately.

3. Name four of Robert Burns' poems.

4. Find and copy a phrase that tells you that Burns wasn't afraid to express his opinions.

5. Name two things that were the inspiration for Burns' poems.

6. Use three adjectives to describe Robert Burns.

7. Would you like to attend a Burns Night event? Give a reason for your answer.

8. Why is Robert Burns so special to the people of Scotland?

9. Why do you think Robert could be described as having a growth mindset?

10. Write three facts you learnt about Robert Burns.

Answers

1. Why is Burns night celebrated on 25th January?
Burns Night is celebrated on 25th January because it is Robert Burns birthday.
2. Find and copy a word in the text that means affectionately.
fondly
3. Name four of Robert Burns' poems.
To a Mouse, To a Louse, Auld Lang Syne, A Red, Red Rose, Address to a Haggis
4. Find and copy a phrase that tells you that Burns wasn't afraid to express his opinions
controversial political views
5. Name two things that were the inspiration for Burns' poems.
Things he observed whilst farming and falling in love were both inspiration for his poems.
6. Use three adjectives to describe Robert Burns.
Learners' own responses.
7. Would you like to attend a Burns Night event? Give a reason for your answer.
Learners' own responses.
8. Why is Robert Burns so special to the people of Scotland?
Burns is special to Scotland because his poems are known around the world; Burns is special to Scotland because he is a national treasure; Burns is special to Scotland because Auld Lang Syne is in the Guinness Book of World Records.
9. Why do you think Robert could be described as having a growth mindset?
Burns could be described as having a growth mindset because he became a success even though he was born into a poor family. He also proved than your background doesn't determine your future.
10. Write three facts you learnt about Robert Burns.
Learners' own responses that must include facts taken from the text.