

# Famous Scots - William Wallace

## About His Early Life

Surprisingly, we don't actually know a great deal about William Wallace's early life. Some historians say he was born in Elderslie in Renfrewshire, whereas others say he was born in Derwent Park in Kilmarnock.

## Attack at Lanark

In 1297, Wallace attacked Lanark, killing the Sheriff, who was an Englishman. Some historians believe that the Sheriff of Lanark had killed Wallace's wife so he wanted to get revenge.

After the attack at Lanark, many Scots joined the fight to drive the English out, particularly in the areas around Perth and Fife.

## Battle of Stirling Bridge

In September 1297, Wallace and the Scottish troops fought against the English at Stirling Bridge. The English Army had many more men than the Scots and yet, due to clever tactics, the Scots defeated them. Many Scots took great heart from this victory and it weakened the English hold on Scotland.

Following the battle, Wallace began to send raids into England.

In the following months, William Wallace was knighted by John Balliol and was made 'Guardian of the Kingdom of Scotland'.

### Date of Birth

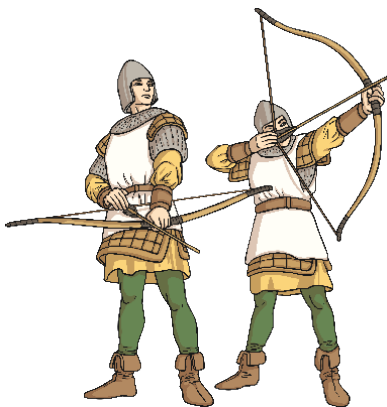
Around 1270

### Place of Birth

Somewhere in Scotland

### Occupation

Guardian of Scotland



## Battle of Falkirk

In July 1298, the English king, Edward I, tried to invade Scotland again. The Scots and William Wallace met the English army at Falkirk and this time, the Scots were defeated.

Wallace was able to escape from the battle and shortly afterwards, went abroad to try and gain support for the Scottish cause. It was around this time that he resigned the guardianship of Scotland.

## Death

William Wallace returned to Scotland in 1303. While Wallace was abroad, King Edward had made peace with Robert the Bruce and John Comyn. Edward deliberately made the truce without Wallace and instead offered money to anyone who either captured or killed him.

In August 1305, Wallace was eventually captured near Glasgow. He was tried and found guilty of treason. King Edward wanted to make an example of him. He ordered Wallace to be hanged, drawn and quartered. His head was placed on London Bridge and his limbs were displayed in Newcastle, Berwick, Stirling and Perth.

## Legacy

William Wallace has become a great Scottish hero. There are over 20 monuments remembering the life of William Wallace. The most famous of these is the Wallace Monument, which stands above Stirling on Abbey Craig.



# William Wallace Questions

1. What year do historians think William Wallace was born? Tick one.

- ☐ 1207  
☐ 1270  
☐ 1297  
☐ 1279

2. Which two places do historians think William Wallace could have been born?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Fill in the missing words below:

Some historians believe that the Sheriff of Lanark had killed \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ so he wanted to get \_\_\_\_\_.

4. In which battle did the Scots defeat the English due to 'clever tactics'? Tick one.

- ☐ Attack at Glasgow  
☐ Battle of Stirling Bridge  
☐ Attack at Lanark  
☐ Battle of Falkirk

5. Match the sentences up below:

The man who made Wallace 'Guardian  
 of the Kingdom of Scotland' was

Wallace sent raids into England.

The Scots were defeated

John Balliol.

After the battle of Stirling Bridge

at the Battle of Falkirk.

6. Tick the boxes to say whether the sentences are true or false.

Sentence	True	False
King Edward accidentally left Wallace out of the truce.		
Wallace's head was displayed in London.		
Wallace was captured in August 1305.		
King Edward offered a palace to anyone who captured or killed Wallace.		

7. Why do you think Wallace was knighted by John Balliol?

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# William Wallace Answers

1. What year do historians think William Wallace was born? Tick one.

- ☐ 1207  
☒ 1270  
☐ 1297  
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2. Which two places do historians think William Wallace could have been born?

**Historians believe William Wallace could have been born in Elderslie in Renferwshire or Derwent Park in Kilmarnock.**

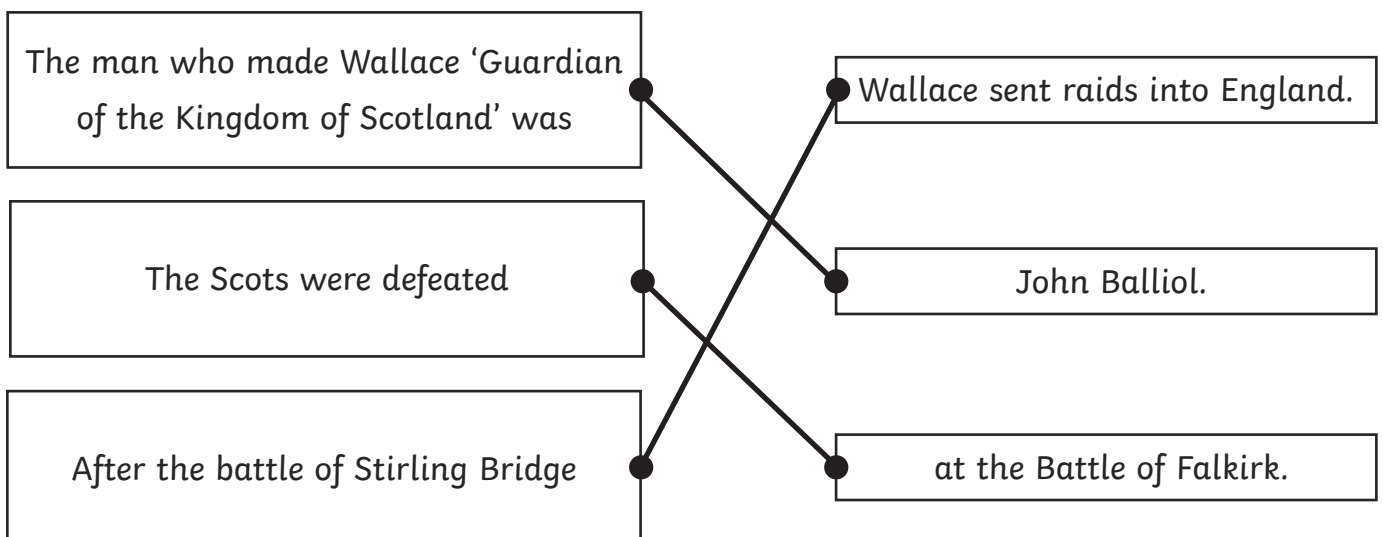
3. Fill in the missing words below:

Some historians believe that the Sheriff of Lanark had killed **Wallace's wife** so he wanted to get **revenge**.

4. In which battle did the Scots defeat the English due to 'clever tactics'? Tick one.

- ☐ Attack at Glasgow  
☒ **Battle of Stirling Bridge**  
☐ Attack at Lanark  
☐ Battle of Falkirk

5. Match the sentences up below:



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King Edward accidentally left Wallace out of the truce.		✓
Wallace's head was displayed in London.	✓	
Wallace was captured in August 1305.	✓	
King Edward offered a palace to anyone who captured or killed Wallace.		✓

7. Why do you think Wallace was knighted by John Balliol?

**Pupil's own response, such as: I believe John Balliol knighted Wallace because he started the rebellion against the English, and the Scots won the battle at Stirling Bridge even though they were outnumbered.**



# Famous Scots - William Wallace

## About His Early Life

Surprisingly, we don't actually know a great deal about William Wallace's early life. Some historians say he was born in Elderslie in Renfrewshire whereas others say he was born in Derwent Park in Kilmarnock. Most historians agree that he was born to a minor noble family.

### Date of Birth

Around 1270

### Place of Birth

Somewhere in Scotland

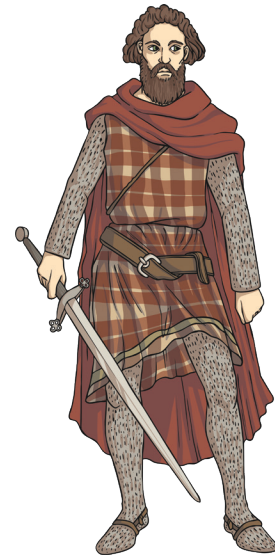
### Occupation

Guardian of Scotland

## Attack at Lanark

In 1297, Wallace attacked Lanark, killing the Sheriff, who was an Englishman. Some historians believe it was revenge that Wallace sought as they think that the Sheriff of Lanark had killed Wallace's wife.

Wallace's attack at Lanark led to a wider rebellion. Many Scots joined the fight to drive the English out of Scotland, particularly in the areas around Perth and Fife.



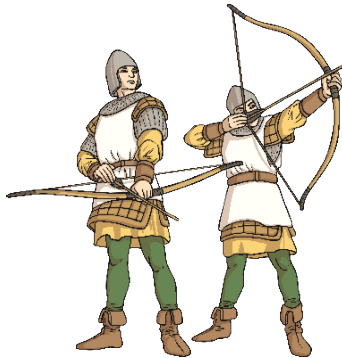
## Battle of Stirling Bridge

In September 1297, Wallace, alongside Scottish troops, fought against the English at Stirling Bridge. The English Army had many more men than the Scots and yet, due to clever tactics, the Scots defeated them. Many Scots took great heart from this victory and it weakened the English hold on Scotland.

Following the battle, Wallace began to send raids into England.

In the following months, William Wallace was knighted by John Balliol and appointed 'Guardian of the Kingdom of Scotland'.

## Battle of Falkirk



In July 1298, the English king, Edward I, tried to invade Scotland again. Wallace and the Scots met the English army at Falkirk and this time, the Scots were defeated. Wallace was able to escape from the battle and shortly afterwards, went abroad to try and gain support for the Scottish cause. It was around this time that he resigned the guardianship of Scotland.

## Death

William Wallace returned to Scotland in 1303. While Wallace was abroad, King Edward had made peace with Robert the Bruce and John Comyn. Edward deliberately excluded Wallace from this truce and instead put a price on Wallace's head, offering money to anyone who either captured or killed him.

In August 1305, Wallace was eventually captured near Glasgow. He was tried and found guilty of treason. King Edward wanted to make an example of him. He ordered Wallace to be hanged, drawn and quartered. His head was placed on London Bridge and his limbs were displayed in Newcastle, Berwick, Stirling and Perth.

## Legacy

William Wallace has become a great Scottish hero. However, he wasn't always so popular or well-known. There is little that is actually known about his life and there are many question marks over even the basic facts.

There are over 20 monuments to remember the life of William Wallace. The most famous of these is the Wallace Monument, which stands above Stirling on Abbey Craig.





# William Wallace Questions

1. Which year did the Attack at Lanark take place? Tick one.

- ☐ 1270
- ☐ 1279
- ☐ 1297
- ☐ 1298

2. Read the **Attack at Lanark** paragraph. Find and copy a word that means 'wanted'.

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3. List two things that happened after the Battle of Stirling Bridge.

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4. Use the text to match the sentences up.

The Battle of Falkirk

led to a wider rebellion in Scotland.

The Battle of Stirling Bridge

ended in a loss for the Scots and Wallace had to go abroad.

The Attack at Lanark

was a great victory for the Scots, despite having fewer men.

5. What did Wallace do after the Battle of Falkirk? Tick two.

- ☐ Return to Scotland
- ☐ Argue with Robert the Bruce
- ☐ Go abroad to gain support
- ☐ Give up the guardianship of Scotland

6. Who was involved in the peace deal between Scotland and England? Tick one.

- ☐ King Edward with Robert the Bruce
- ☐ Robert the Bruce and William Wallace
- ☐ King Edward, Robert the Bruce and John Comyn
- ☐ King Edward and John Comyn

7. Why do you think King Edward wanted to 'make an example' of Wallace?

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8. Where is the most famous monument to Wallace? Why do you think it is there?

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# William Wallace Answers

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3. List two things that happened after the Battle of Stirling Bridge.

Wallace began sending raids into England.

Wallace was knighted by John Balliol and appointed 'guardian of the kingdom'.

4. Use the text to match the sentences up.

The Battle of Falkirk	led to a wider rebellion in Scotland.
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- ☐ King Edward and John Comyn

7. Why do you think King Edward wanted to 'make an example' of Wallace?

Pupil's own response, such as: I believe King Edward wanted to 'make an example' of Wallace because the text says that Wallace led the attack at Lanark, and this started the rebellion against the English. As King Edward was the English king, he might blame Wallace and wanted to show others what would happen if they followed in his footsteps.

8. Where is the most famous monument to Wallace? Why do you think it is there?

The most famous monument to Wallace is in Stirling. Then pupil's own response, such as: I believe it is there because that was where the Scots defeated the English, when they were outnumbered. The text says the victory gave the Scots 'great heart' so it was very important to them.

# Famous Scots - William Wallace

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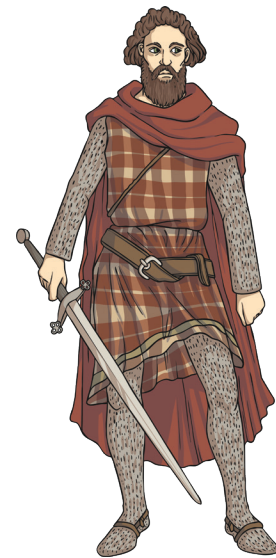
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Wallace's attack at Lanark led to a wider rebellion. Many Scots joined the fight to drive the English out of Scotland, particularly in the areas around Perth and Fife.



## Battle of Stirling Bridge

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Following the battle, Wallace began to send raids into England.

In the following months, William Wallace was knighted by John Balliol and appointed 'Guardian of the Kingdom of Scotland'.

## Battle of Falkirk

The Scots and William Wallace met the king of England, Edward I, and his army again in July 1298. Wallace and the Scots met the English army at Falkirk and this time, the Scots were defeated.

Wallace was able to escape from the battle and shortly afterwards, went abroad to try and gain support for the Scottish cause. It was around this time that he resigned the guardianship of Scotland.



## Death

William Wallace returned to Scotland in 1303. While Wallace was abroad, King Edward had made peace with Robert the Bruce and John Comyn. Edward deliberately excluded Wallace from this truce and instead put a price on Wallace's head, offering money to anyone who either captured or killed him.

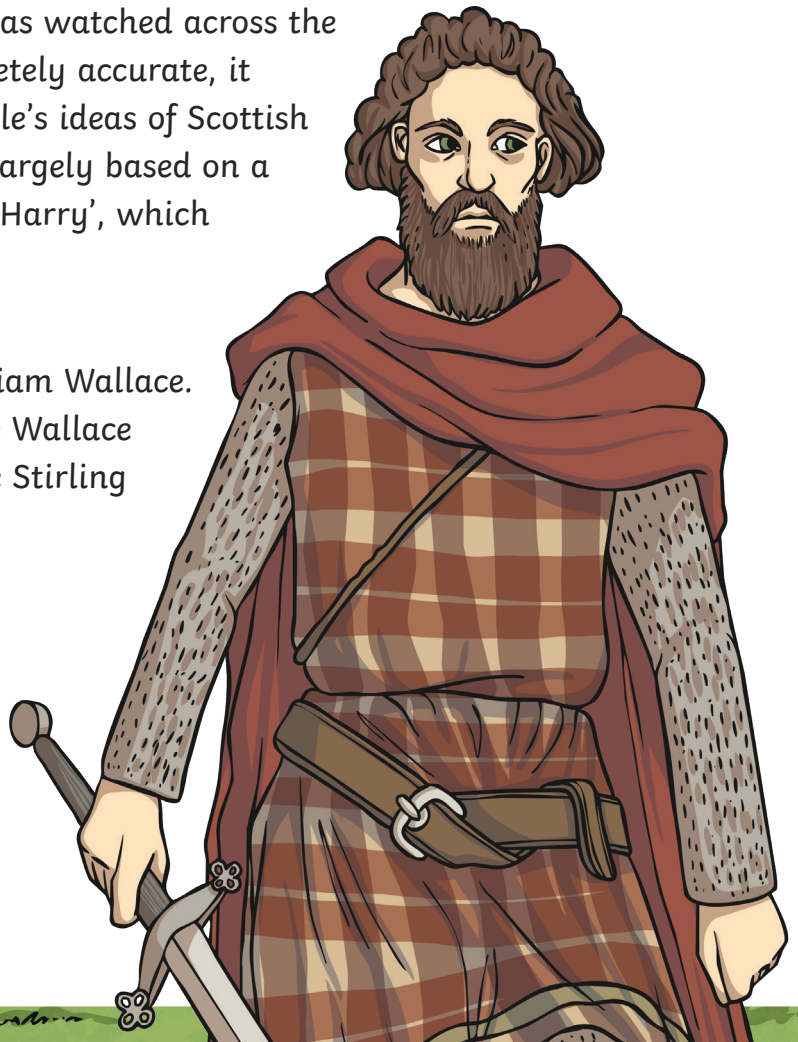
In August 1305, Wallace was eventually captured near Glasgow. He was tried and found guilty of treason. King Edward wanted to make an example of him. He ordered Wallace to be hanged, drawn and quartered. His head was placed on London Bridge and his limbs were displayed in Newcastle, Berwick, Stirling and Perth.

## Legacy

William Wallace has become a great Scottish hero. However, he wasn't always so popular or well-known. There is little that is actually known about his life and there are many question marks over even the basic facts.

In 1995, a film about William Wallace was released, called *Braveheart*. The film was hugely popular and was watched across the world. Despite not being completely accurate, it has helped to shape many people's ideas of Scottish history. This is because it was largely based on a poem by someone called 'Blind Harry', which was also inaccurate.

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.



# William Wallace Questions

1. Why do historians argue about where Wallace was born?  

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2. After the attack at Lanark, from which two areas of Scotland did the Scots particularly try to drive out the English?  

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3. Why do you think the Scots took 'great heart' in the Battle of Stirling Bridge?  

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4. When was the Battle of Falkirk? Tick **one**.  
  - ☐ September, 1297
  - ☐ July, 1297
  - ☐ July, 1298
  - ☐ August 1305
5. What happened in 1303? Tick **one**.  
  - ☐ Wallace was killed.
  - ☐ Wallace left to go abroad.
  - ☐ Wallace returned to Scotland.
  - ☐ The film 'Braveheart' was released.
6. What does it mean when it says King Edward 'put a price on' Wallace's head?  

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7. Why do you think King Edward had Wallace killed the way he did?  
Use the text to support your answer.  

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8. Why do you think King Edward excluded Wallace from the truce?  
Use the text to support your answer.  

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# William Wallace Answers

1. Why do historians argue about where Wallace was born?  
**Historians argue about where Wallace was born because we don't know very much about his early life.**
2. After the attack at Lanark, from which two areas of Scotland did the Scots particularly try to drive out the English?  
**Perth and Fife**
3. Why do you think the Scots took 'great heart' in the Battle of Stirling Bridge?  
**Pupil's response, such as: I think the Scots took 'great heart' after the Battle of Stirling Bridge because they were happy that they defeated the English when they were not expected to. I know this because the text says the Scots were 'outnumbered' by the English**
4. When was the Battle of Falkirk? Tick one.
  - ☐ September, 1297
  - ☐ July, 1297
  - ☒ July, 1298
  - ☐ August 1305
5. What happened in 1303? Tick one.
  - ☐ Wallace was killed.
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  - ☒ Wallace returned to Scotland.
  - ☐ The film 'Braveheart' was released.
6. What does it mean when it says King Edward 'put a price on' Wallace's head?  
**When King Edward 'put a price' on Wallace's head, it means that he offered money to anyone that captured him or killed him.**
7. Why do you think King Edward had Wallace killed the way he did?  
**Use the text to support your answer.**  
**Pupil's response, such as: I think King Edward had Wallace killed the way he did because he probably wanted to hurt Wallace and also wanted to show everyone what happened to anyone who went against him. I know this because it says in the text that King Edward wanted to 'make an example' of Wallace. I also think that Edward had his body parts spread out around Scotland and the North of England because he wanted them to be a warning to the people who lived there.**

8. Why do you think King Edward excluded Wallace from the truce?

Use the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response that refers to the text, such as: I believe King Edward excluded Wallace from the truce because he thought Wallace wouldn't agree to it, and also because he wanted Wallace dead. I think this because the text suggests that Wallace started the rebellion, so would be unlikely to want peace. Also, King Edward was the English king, so he might blame Wallace for the fighting.