

LEARNING ACTIVITIES & SUCCESS CRITERIA

I can research the history of the lighthouses around Scotland and the Stevenson family, and make a display/map/poster/webpage about the Flannan Isles lighthouse.

Find out about:

- how many of the Stevenson family were involved in lighthouse building.
- over what period did they build lighthouses.
- where the Flannan Isles are.
- which Stevenson built the Flannan Isles lighthouse.
- when it was built.
- the shore station at Breasclete on the Isle of Lewis.
- how the light keepers contacted the outside world before radio communication.
- how long the Flannan Isles remained manned.
- how the lighthouse is operated nowadays.

I can write a newspaper report on the disappearance of three men from the Flannan Isles lighthouse in 1900:

- read the official Northern Lighthouse Board reports from 1900 about what happened on Flannan Isles.
- read other reports giving accounts and theories about the disappearance of the three men.
- try to distinguish facts about the mystery from opinions and theories
- write your own newspaper report including:
 - » headline
 - » a subheading (a sentence summarising the story)
 - » introductory paragraph (who, what, when, where, why)
 - » main story (where you tell the reader more details)
 - » picture with caption (try and get a picture from the internet)

I can study Wilfrid Wilson Gibson's poem 'Flannan Isle' and give a personal response to it:

- identify words and phrases used in the first five verses to make Eilean Mòr seem like an eerie and sinister place.
- Highlight three or more lines in verse eight which show how the poet builds up the tension when the men enter the lighthouse.
- does the poet keep the tense atmosphere going in the last two verses and is this effective.
- write a 100 word summary giving your own opinion of the poem.

QUESTIONS TO CHECK HIGHER ORDER THINKING SKILLS

Why were lighthouses needed round the Scottish coastline?

Why do you think the same family over generations were involved in lighthouse building?

What were the main challenges they faced in building lighthouses in remote locations?

Would you like to be a lighthouse keeper? Why/why not?

What do you think happened on the Flannan Isles when the men disappeared?

How is a newspaper report different from other reports?

Do you think the poet WW Gibson was right in using 'poetic license' to make his poem more dramatic?

What do you think of the poem?

LINKS/RESOURCES

<https://www.nlb.org.uk/historical/flannans.htm>

<http://blog.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/2012/12/27/strange-affair-at-a-lighthouse-three-keepers-disappear/>

<http://www.lighthousedigest.com/Digest/StoryPage.cfm?StoryKey=2267>

<https://www.sundaypost.com/news/scottish-news/has-mystery-of-flannan-isles-finally-been-solved/>

http://www.poetry-archive.com/g/flannan_isle.html

EXPERIENCES & OUTCOMES

I can use primary and secondary sources selectively to research events in the past.

SOC 2-01a

I can interpret historical evidence from a range of periods to help to build a picture of Scotland's heritage and my sense of chronology.

SOC 2-02a

To show my understanding, I can respond to literal, inferential and evaluative questions and other close reading tasks and can create different kinds of questions of my own.

GAI 2-17a

To help me develop an informed view, I can identify and explain the difference between fact and opinion, recognise when I am being influenced, and have assessed how useful and believable my sources are.

LIT 2-18a

I can use my notes and other types of writing to help me understand information and ideas, explore problems, make decisions, generate and develop ideas or create new text.

I recognise the need to acknowledge my sources and can do this appropriately.

LIT 2-25a

By considering the type of text I am creating, I can select ideas and relevant information, organise these in an appropriate way for my purpose and use suitable vocabulary for my audience.

LIT 2-26a

