

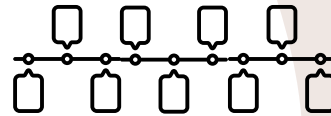
Unlocking Leighton: Learning Lab on Life & Legacy of Robert Leighton

Devised by Malcolm Wilson



Read the article “Robert Leighton: 1611-1684 Life & legacy” by Dr Bill Inglis, and use that as a starting point to explore further the historical context of Robert Leighton's life to develop a range of skills that are essential for the study of history.

Timeline Creation



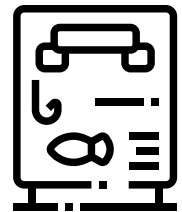
Create a timeline of Robert Leighton's life, highlighting key events and their historical context. This will help develop skills of understanding historical chronology, researching, and creating summaries of information.

Arrange the key events in chronological order. Make sure you include his birth and family background, his education and early influences, major milestones in his career, key historical events in which he was involved, and his retirement and legacy.

Decide whether you will use a horizontal or vertical timeline format. Beside each date add short summary descriptions for each event.

Create a Poster about Robert Leighton's Life

Create a poster about Robert Leighton's life. This will help develop visual communication, develop the skill of creating a concise summary, and historical understanding.



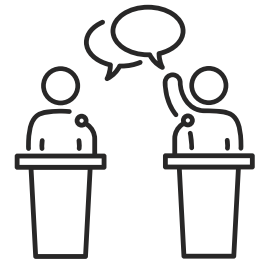
Research Key Achievements and Challenges, by gathering information from reliable sources such as books, educational websites, or articles about Robert Leighton. Focus on:

- **Achievements:** Robert Leighton's role as Principal of the University of Edinburgh, his efforts to bridge religious divides, his writings and sermons, and his tenure as Bishop of Dunblane then as Archbishop of Glasgow.
- **Challenges:** The religious conflicts of 17th-century Scotland, opposition to his ideas of tolerance, and his eventual resignation due to frustrations with church politics.
- **Legacy of Leighton Library in Dunblane.**

Decide on a Poster Layout, with a design which organises the information clearly, includes the poster's title (such as "The Life and Legacy of Robert Leighton"), with the sections Achievements, Challenges, and Legacy, and with suitable visual elements.

Condense information into short, impactful sentences, arranging information in an eye-catching way, perhaps with timelines, flowcharts, or visual symbols.

Debate on Religious Tolerance



Organise a debate on the importance of religious tolerance, using Robert Leighton's life, actions and values as a case study. This will help develop skills of critical thinking, practice in forming arguments, public speaking, presenting ideas effectively, and understanding different perspectives.

Research the topic by studying Robert Leighton's life, focus on his advocacy for religious harmony during a period of intense division in seventeenth century Scotland, his desire to bridge gaps between Presbyterians and Episcopalians. Investigate modern examples and challenges to religious tolerance to connect the historical case study to contemporary issues.

Divide into two groups:

- **Pro-Tolerance Team:** Argue why religious tolerance is essential for social harmony, drawing on Leighton's values and successes.
- **Critical Perspective Team:** Offer counterpoints, such as the complexities and obstacles in achieving tolerance.

Develop Arguments by building structured points supported by evidence (for example, quotes from Leighton or historical documents), and use examples from both Leighton's era and today.

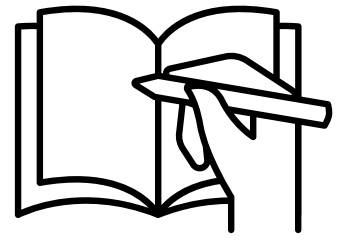
Prepare Speeches and refine public speaking skills by practising clear, engaging openings, logical progression of arguments, and memorable conclusions that leave an impact.

Set Debate Rules to establish guidelines for the debate, such as decoding on time limits for each speaker (perhaps 2–3 minutes), encouraging respectful listening and rebuttals, and having a moderator to keep time and ensure fair play.

Host the Debate, which will have an introduction where the moderator explains the topic and introduces the teams, opening statements are given where each team presents their initial arguments, rebuttals are given where each team responds to each other's points, and closing statements are given where each team provides a summary of their stance, before the moderator brings the debate to a close.

Reflection and Feedback after the debate will involve the teams in discussing what went well and what could be improved in terms of content and delivery, and reflecting on the complexities of tolerance and how Leighton's example resonates today, and encouraging participants to consider how the lessons learned can apply to real-life situations, whether in their communities or future discussions.

Creative Writing Diary Entry



Write a diary entry from the perspective of Robert Leighton during a significant event in his life. This will help develop skills of understanding empathy, creative writing, and historical understanding, sure it flows naturally.

Choose a Significant Event by identifying an important moment in Robert Leighton's life, such as his resignation as Archbishop of Glasgow in 1674, symbolizing his disillusionment with religious divisions, or perhaps his ordination in 1641, marking his entry into the clergy during a turbulent time, or maybe a day as Principal of the University of Edinburgh, focusing on his efforts to reform education.

Research the Event by digging deeper into the historical context, understanding the key players and issues (such as religious conflict between Presbyterians and Episcopalians), exploring what Leighton's thoughts and feelings might have been, based on his writings or biographical details.

Imagine Leighton's Voice, considering how his diary might sound, perhaps in a thoughtful and reflective tone, considering his reputation as a man of humility and peace, balancing personal emotions with reflections on the broader historical significance.

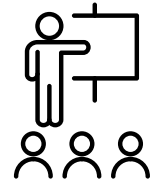
Plan the Diary Entry, thinking of the structure to include date and realistic location (such as "15 May 1674, Glasgow"), description of the Event as a summary of what happened that day, as well as personal Reflections (include his feelings, conflicts, hopes, and fears), and consider his historical insight to connect his experience to the larger societal issues with which he grappled.

Use Creative Language, with vivid descriptions and thoughtful metaphors, with a focus on capturing the tone and emotions of a 17th-century bishop while avoiding modern language. For example:

- "The divisions within the church weigh upon my soul like storm clouds over the Clyde..."
- "Today, I stepped away from the archbishopric, not in anger, but in quiet despair, yearning for unity that seems ever out of reach..."

Revise and Refine by reading your entry aloud to ensure it flows naturally.

Create presentation on English Civil War & impact on Scotland



Create a presentation on the English Civil War and its impact on Scotland. This will help develop research skills, analysis and understanding of historical context and complex topics, and provide practice in presentation and communication skills.

Understand the Objective - make sure you have a clear goal for your presentation: to explain the causes and events of the English Civil War (1642–1651), highlighting its effects on Scotland, including political, religious, and social consequences.

Find reliable sources of information, such as books or articles from a library, online resources like BBC Bitesize, History Extra, or Britannica, as well as YouTube documentaries or educational channels for visual summaries. Take notes on key details as you read or watch.

Break your research into manageable parts, and research each section:

1. Overview of the English Civil War:

- Causes: Conflicts between King Charles I and Parliament, religious disputes, and financial tensions.
- Key events: Major battles (e.g., Edgehill, Marston Moor, and Naseby), the trial and execution of Charles I, and the rise of Oliver Cromwell.
- Outcome: The establishment of the Commonwealth and later the Protectorate under Cromwell.

2. Scotland's Role in the War:

- The Solemn League and Covenant (1643): Scotland's alliance with Parliamentarians.
- Scottish Royalists and their involvement in battles.
- Battle of Dunbar (1650)
- How events in England influenced power struggles in Scotland.

3. Impact on Scotland:

- Religious effects: Presbyterianism vs. Anglicanism and the Kirk's role.
- Political changes: Power shifts and repercussions for the monarchy.
- Social consequences: War-related hardships and divisions in Scottish society.
- Share your reflections on how the Civil War's legacy may still be seen today.

Create an Outline for your Presentation, starting with a strong introduction to grab attention, perhaps posing a question like, "How did a war in England reshape Scotland's future?" End with a conclusion that reflects on the importance of the topic.

Make your presentation engaging by using visuals like maps, illustrations, or photographs to make your points clearer, including quotes from key figures like Charles I or Oliver Cromwell, and perhaps including slides with interesting "Did you know?" facts to keep your audience intrigued.

Rehearse Your Presentation, by practising speaking confidently and clearly.