

Activity Ideas – A Knight’s Burial

Visit the Rosslyn Chapel website for a virtual reality tour of the Chapel and look for the carving www.rosslynchapel.com

Background info	Activity	What you will need	Curriculum
<p>The carving shows a knight in 15th century armour. Armour was designed to protect the various parts of the body when a knight was fighting.</p>	<p>Make an infographic, either on paper or on a computer, to demonstrate what armour a knight wore. Research medieval armour, find out how each piece worked, and what it was called. Work out a way to share this information in your infographic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer access and search engine, or an encyclopaedia • If it helps, print out the full page image of the knight and write on it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical research • Organising and presenting information
<p>The carving was made by drawing the image on the slab of stone, and then chipping it out carefully using stone carving tools such as a mallet and chisels. This would have been a difficult, costly and time-consuming process.</p>	<p>Try out carving a design yourself, using a bar of soap. It makes a mess, but you can get a good result! Try carving in different styles – you could make an incision carving like this one, but you could also make a sculpture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bars of soap • Soap carving tools or similar utensils you can find (but be very careful with anything sharp!) • A table cloth or newspaper to protect surfaces 	<p>Art and design</p>
<p>The knight’s head is flanked by two shields showing a lion rampant. This is a heraldic image symbolising courage, nobility and strength. The lion rampant is also the symbol for the Royal Banner of Scotland.</p>	<p>Design your own heraldic coat of arms. Research the different symbols and conventions of heraldry (there are very strict rules and codes in heraldry) and make your own knight’s shield.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer access and search engine • Paper, card, coloured pencils, glue, sticky tape • A fantastic website about heraldry: https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/easter/preparing-for-easter-adventure-quests/our-guide-to-heraldry/ 	<p>Art and design</p>
<p>The stone marks a grave, and is a simple version of a tomb effigy. In medieval times, tomb effigies were very popular for rich people, when death was seen as an important transition between this world and the next. Very often they are full sculptures. The dog is a common feature, both symbolising faith and acting as a companion in the journey to the afterlife.</p>	<p>Older children: Search for images of medieval tomb effigies. Compare and contrast medieval burial practises with those of today. What does this tell us about medieval attitudes to death and burial?</p> <p>Source and read the poem 'An Arundel Tomb' by Philip Larkin which is the poet’s response to seeing the tomb effigies of the Earl and Countess of Arundel. Why not write your own poem inspired by the knight’s carving in Rosslyn Chapel?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer access and search engine. We’d love to read your poem! Why not share it with us by sending it to learning@rosslynchapel.com 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Comparing and contrasting past societies to our own • Creative writing