

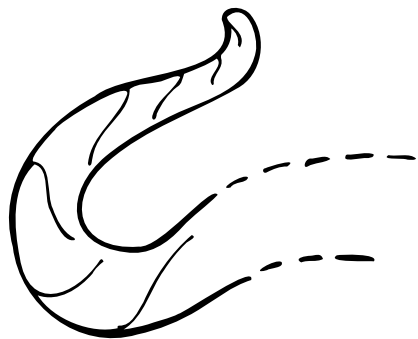
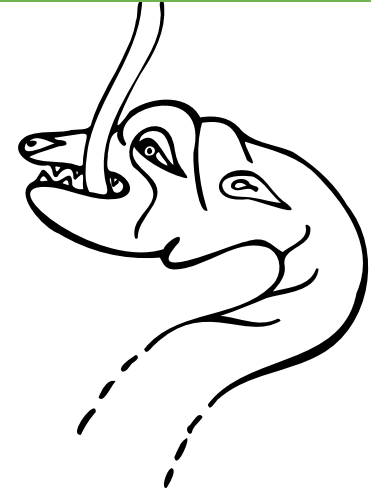
Activity Sheet – Dragons in a Twist

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

Background info	Activity	What you will need	Curriculum
<p>The stone carvers used sandstone which is the most plentiful stone type in the Lothians. The particular sandstone used at Rosslyn Chapel was quarried 10 miles from Roslin, near the village of West Linton.</p>	<p>Make your own dragon sculpture, using the local materials you have to hand. Why not utilise materials that you would put in your recycling bin? For example, cardboard or plastic food packaging, or old newspapers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boxes and cartons • Sticky tape • Paint or coloured tissue paper if you want to go the extra mile with decorating your dragon 	<p>Art and design</p>
<p>The twisted poses of the dragons, with their necks turned back on their own bodies and interlinked with each other, possibly echo earlier Pictish or Celtic carvings, in which the outlines of animals weave over, under and around each other like knots.</p>	<p>Research Pictish animal and knot designs from earlier Christian buildings, monuments and manuscripts, such as Pictish stones or the Lindisfarne Gospels (the page borders and illuminated letters are often filled with details of dragon-like creatures interweaving in knots). Use the template on the next page to design your own Pictish-style dragon. Start with the head at one corner and 'take your lines for a walk' to get to the tail. You'll need to do this in pencil so you can erase the lines where your dragon crosses over itself.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer access and search engine • Useful websites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.bl.uk/collection-items/lindisfarne-gospels www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/stories/scottish-history-and-archaeology/hilton-of-cadboll-stone/ www.historicenvironment.scot/ • Printed template • Pencil and rubber 	<p>Art and design</p>
<p>In medieval times people were not sure if dragons really existed or not – they thought they might! Encyclopediae of the animal world were popular and were called 'bestiaries' ie books of beasts. In such books, dragons and other mythological animals were described with as much detail and sincerity as real animals.</p>	<p>Write your own encyclopedia entry for dragons. You will need to describe what a dragon looks like, where it lives and how it behaves. What noise does it make? What does it eat? Does it live in groups or alone? You may also want to illustrate your entry to help your readers identify a dragon if they see one! You could take a look at a modern bird book to get an idea of how an identification guide works.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pen and paper or computer • Coloured pencils and crayons • Bird book or other animal guide 	<p>Creative writing</p>

Activity Sheet – Dragons in a Twist

How twisty can your dragon get?
Continue the lines and take them
for a convoluted, knotty walk!



Don't forget, your dragon will need
feet and wings at some point!