

The Prestonpans Tapestry

Teacher's Information

The Prestonpans Tapestry consists of 104 panels (measuring 1m x 460mm) depicting the story of Charles Edward Stuart, grandson of King James VII and II, and his campaign in 1745 to regain the British throne. Captured within the Tapestry are many famous scenes from Bonnie Prince Charlie's journey - his departure from Rome, the sea voyage from France to Eriskay, the route through the Highlands to Edinburgh, and the dramatic victory over the Hanoverian army at Prestonpans. The Tapestry ends with the victorious Jacobites leaving Edinburgh to invade England.

The Prestonpans Tapestry is a unique and engaging educational resource for young children. Celebrating the work of communities and individuals across Scotland, traditional needlework techniques have been used to create an artwork of national significance. A wide range of supporting educational resources is now available for schools and families visiting the Prestonpans Tapestry. These have been developed for children of between Primary One and Seven (ages 4-11). Activity sheets range from 'Tapestry Trail' quizzes to engage directly with the Tapestry itself, to fun puzzles and craft pieces allowing the younger generation to explore and discover all about Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Campaign of 1745. Many of these resources can be accessed in the Education section of the official website: www.prestonpanstapestry.org.

National Curriculum and Education Resources

The Prestonpans Tapestry is an exciting resource which can readily support the aims and requirements of the National Curriculum of Excellence. For those Scottish primary schools who choose to study the curriculum's *The Jacobite* module, the Prestonpans Tapestry and the established Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust Living History School Visits, can combined to provide a comprehensive package of unique, diverse and engaging learning resources. Such resources are, for example, ideal in providing support to the aim of Key Stage 2 History SOC 2-02a, to 'interpret historical evidence to help to build a picture of Scotland's heritage and develop a sense of chronology.' It is also suggested that the Prestonpans Tapestry learning resources facilitate a truly cross-curricular approach to the study of the last Jacobite Rising. The following list explains some of the ways studying the Tapestry is of educational value, and how teachers may wish to follow up or prepare for a visit.

Art, Craft and Design:

- Explore the tapestry to understand it as an artwork: how was it constructed?
- Draw your own Tapestry Panel, as included on the activity sheets.
- Cut and Stick activities: Timeline; Dress the Highlander/Redcoat
- A range of colour-in images relating to the Prestonpans Tapestry.

English:

- Create a newspaper article covering the story of the Jacobite occupation of Edinburgh.
- Drama - a classroom visit by the Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust's living history specialists provides an interactive educational experience, to build upon or prepare for a viewing of the Tapestry.
- Discover the Scots language by looking at the works of Robert Burns in relation to the Jacobite Campaign of 1745.

Geography:

- The Tapestry features several maps and plans, showing the movement of the forces.
- Follow the routes of the two armies through the dramatically represented landscapes in the Tapestry.

History:

- Study Unit: Britain until 1750, *The Jacobites*.
- Studying the Tapestry assists with interpretation skills, and developing a sense of chronology.
- The Prestonpans Tapestry Activity Sheets, Fact Files, and the Trust's *Battle of Prestonpans 1745* by S McGardy contextual information as well as combining fun puzzles with basic skills acquisition.
- Living History School Visits are available to complement the Prestonpans Tapestry, providing the context to the 1745 Rising and the weaponry and uniforms used at the time.

Mathematics:

- Numbers and dates are an important part of the Prestonpans Tapestry.
- Battle Game (as part of Living History School Visits): working together, pupils need to calculate numbers and odds, as well as problem solving during tactical numeric game manoeuvres.

Music:

- The Battle of Prestonpans and the wider Jacobite Rising were a stimulus for music and poetry at the time. To support the study of the topic and the Tapestry, suggest reading contemporary Scottish lyrics, melody and rhythm; learning how to boost morale and the importance of oral tradition.

Further Learning Resources Available:



- The Prestonpans Tapestry Activity Sheets have been created to provide activities which encourage children to explore the Tapestry in detail, as well as offering puzzles for them to take away.
- The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust has created a colourful and informative 28-page book to interpret the battle for school children: *The Battle of Prestonpans 1745* by Stuart McHardy.
- The Prestonpans 1745 Battle Game is an exclusive game created by Gordon Veitch and Gary Morham. Based upon a topographical reconstruction (10"x8") of the battlesite, pupils work as teams to bring the battle alive. In addition to providing a fun way of learning about the battle, the Battle Game is also effective for team-building activities. Available as part of the Living History School Visits.
- The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust Living History School Visits bring the characters of the event to life for the pupils. The specialist performance team tell the story of the battle in a full context, and includes weaponry displays, uniform demonstrations, and pupil participation.

Contact Information:

If there are any particular resources that you would like to see created for the 'Education Resources' then please contact us on the e-mail address provided below, all appropriate suggestions welcomed.

For all enquiries regarding the Prestonpans Tapestry, Living History School Visits, and the Battle Game, please contact: waukin@battleofprestonpans1745.org