

MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS



Content, skills and concepts

This chapter on Mary Queen of Scots relates to the history curriculum in Scotland and may be used in relation to study units on the lives of famous people or the Tudors. Together with the Mary Queen of Scots Resource Gallery on the CD, it introduces a range of sources, including photographs, engravings, a map and accounts of the life of this famous Scottish monarch. These can be used in teaching about the eventful and tumultuous life of Mary Queen of Scots, as well as introducing children to some aspects of life during that period in the past.

Children will already have gained experience, while working on other history units, of sequencing and using timelines, the use of time-related vocabulary, asking and answering questions, and using visual, written and auditory sources. Recounting stories about the past, and looking for similarities and differences between the past and the present are prior learning activities which will have introduced relevant skills and concepts to the children before they progress to the skills and concepts in this unit. The chapter includes suggestions for the extension of these and other skills, such as recognising change and cause and effect.

Resources on the CD-ROM

Portraits of Mary, her husbands and son, photographs of artefacts, a map and illustration are provided on the CD. Teacher's notes containing background information about these resources are provided in this chapter, along with suggestions for further work on them.

Photocopiable pages

Photocopiable resources within the book (and also provided in PDF format on the CD from which they can be printed) include:

- ▶ a timeline
- ▶ word and sentence cards which highlight the essential vocabulary of this topic
- ▶ an account of the time Mary Queen of Scots spent as a prisoner of Elizabeth I
- ▶ extracts from Mary Queen of Scots' own writings, such as letters.

The teacher's notes that accompany the photocopiable pages include suggestions for developing discussion and using them as whole class, group or individual activities. The extracts from a speech and from letters written by Mary Queen of Scots provide firsthand sources. These extracts have been left in their original style to encourage children to learn about the different style of writing and speaking, and also to help them develop the confidence as readers to try to tackle it. Consequently, children of this age will find these texts challenging.

History skills

Skills such as observing, describing, using time-related vocabulary, sequencing, using a timeline, understanding the meaning of dates, comparing, inferring, listening, speaking, reading, writing and drawing are involved in the activities provided. The children can also learn to use a wide range of vocabulary to describe the images shown on the CD.

Historical understanding

In the course of the suggested tasks, a further overarching aim is for children to begin to develop a more detailed knowledge of the past and their ability to sequence and date events independently, through their understanding of the context and content of the factual information they use. They will begin to give reasons for events, use sources to find further information and be able to recount and rewrite accounts they have heard. They will also have the opportunity to extend their skills in using descriptive language and specific time-related terms in beginning to write their own factual accounts of the past.

