

Great Scots Storyline

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Throughout April, May and June, the 26 pupils in P6C at Lochside Primary School, Montrose, Scotland learned about Great Scots through the use of the Scottish Storyline Method.

The aim of the project was to encourage the pupils to discover the numerous famous people that have come from Scotland, and for the pupils to learn in an active, dynamic and exploratory setting. Initially, the idea was presented to the pupils as a task – pupils would be creating a TV programme for the BBC on 7 'Great Scots'. The pupils were to split up into 7 'Design Teams' and each created individual characters (and personalities!) who worked for the BBC (e.g. Special Effects, Stylists, News Presenter, Camera Man).

After creating our characters, our Design Teams got to work. We discussed numerous famous Scots and went into great detail to learn more about some of them (e.g. Rabbie Burns, Andy Murray) due to popular demand! The project also involved some Scottish themed art work; we designed Macintosh-style 3D rooms and looked at Dennis the Menace's onomatopoeia.

The final 7 Great Scots chosen were Alexander Graham Bell, Rabbie Burns, Jock Stein, John Logie Baird, Charles Rennie Macintosh, Andy Murray and Burke and Hare (not technically Scottish, however as the result of a class vote we decided to make them honourary Scotsmen). These Scotsmen were chosen by the Design Teams as a group, and the majority of research on each specific Scot was done within the groups rather than as a class. Each group were given a 5 minute slot to fill with as much interesting information as possible, to be given to the audience in an attractive and exciting way.

The 3 main learning outcomes:

- I can work cooperatively and calmly in a group setting.
- I can select and organise relevant information.
- I can perform using a clear, loud voice.

These outcomes were displayed on the class' Learning Wall along with a selection of work also completed throughout the topic.



One highlight of the project was the mysterious arrival of letters from 'Mark Thompson', the Director General of the BBC. The pupils all played along very well with the idea of receiving letters with instructions from the BBC and were always very excited when a new letter/text message arrived.

The finale of the project was the arrival of the 35 minute long 'Great Scots' DVD after having been edited to ensure that John Logie Baird was interviewed in what seemed to be Helensburgh, and Charles Rennie Macintosh was resuscitated in a hospital rather than a classroom! The finale of the DVD showed a picture of myself dresses as 'Mark Thompson', a picture which the class most definitely enjoyed!