

## SOCIAL STUDIES — SCOTTISH CULTURE · P3–P6

# Raibeart Burns agus Oidhche na Bliadhna Ùire

Burns &amp; Hogmanay — P3–P6

## Robert Burns (1759–1796)

### 1 Robert Burns — life

Scotland's national poet. Born in Alloway, Ayrshire. Son of a tenant farmer. Self-educated. Wrote in both Scots and English. Died aged 37.

### 2 His poetry

'Auld Lang Syne' (known worldwide), 'To a Mouse' (tender poem to a field mouse disturbed by his plough — 'The best laid plans o' mice an' men gang aft agley'), 'Address to a Haggis', 'A Red Red Rose', 'Tam o' Shanter'.

### 3 Burns Night (25 January)

Annual celebration of Burns's birthday (1759). Burns suppers feature haggis (addressed with the 'Address to a Haggis'), neeps and tatties, whisky, poetry readings, the Immortal Memory speech, and dancing.

### 4 Burns's legacy

Celebrated in more countries than virtually any other poet. Burns Night celebrated in Russia, China, Canada, and across the world. A global symbol of Scotland.

## Hogmanay — Scottish New Year

### 1 Hogmanay

New Year in Scotland is a bigger celebration than Christmas — a tradition dating to when Christmas was suppressed by the Presbyterian Kirk and New Year took its place as the main winter festival.



2

**First footing**

The first person to enter your house after midnight on New Year's Day. Traditionally should be a tall, dark-haired man carrying gifts: coal, shortbread, whisky, salt. First footing brings luck for the year.

3

**Auld Lang Syne**

Burns's poem, set to a traditional melody. Sung at midnight on New Year's Eve worldwide. 'Auld lang syne' means 'old long since' — roughly, 'for old times' sake'. Scotland gave this song to the world.

4

**Edinburgh Hogmanay**

The Edinburgh Hogmanay street party is one of the world's largest New Year celebrations — approximately 75,000 people.

