

SOCIAL STUDIES — SCOTTISH HISTORY · P5–P7

# Blàr Allt a' Bhonnaich — Battle of Bannockburn

Knowledge Organiser — P5–P7

## The Wars of Scottish Independence

1

### Wars of Scottish Independence (1296–1357)

A series of military campaigns between Scotland and England over Scottish independence. Edward I of England ('Hammer of the Scots') invaded Scotland (1296), seized the Stone of Destiny, and installed a puppet king.

2

### William Wallace

A knight from Elderslie, Renfrewshire. Led a Scottish resistance movement. Won the Battle of Stirling Bridge (1297). Defeated at Falkirk (1298). Executed in London (1305) by Edward I — hung, drawn, and quartered.

3

### Robert the Bruce (Robert I)

King of Scots from 1306. Initially wavered between English and Scottish allegiances. After Methven (1306) defeat, became a determined guerrilla fighter. Gradually recaptured Scotland from English control.

4

### The Battle of Bannockburn (23-24 June 1314)

Edward II invaded Scotland with approximately 20,000 troops to relieve Stirling Castle. Bruce's army of approximately 7,000 defeated them. The English army was routed — Edward II fled.

5

### The Declaration of Arbroath (1320)

A letter from the Scottish nobility to Pope John XXII asserting Scotland's independence. Contains one of history's great statements of freedom: 'It is not for glory, honour, or riches that we fight, but for liberty alone.'



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**Significance**

Bannockburn secured Scotland's practical independence for the next three centuries. Bruce had united the country around national identity.

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