

SOCIAL STUDIES — SCOTTISH HISTORY · P4–P7

Clach Scàin — The Stone of Destiny

History P4–P7

The Stone's story

1

What it is

A rectangular block of red sandstone (about 66×41×28 cm, 152 kg). Used for centuries in the coronation of Scottish kings at Scone (near Perth). Also called the Stone of Scone or Coronation Stone.

2

Edward I steals it (1296)

When Edward I invaded Scotland, he removed the Stone to Westminster Abbey in London and incorporated it into a special coronation chair (the Coronation Chair). English monarchs were crowned on it for 700 years.

3

Scottish students take it back (1950)

On Christmas Day 1950, four Glasgow University students broke into Westminster Abbey and removed the Stone. It was found months later at Arbroath Abbey. They were not prosecuted.

4

Return to Scotland (1996)

The UK government returned the Stone to Scotland in 1996. It is now on display at Edinburgh Castle alongside the Scottish Crown Jewels (Honours of Scotland).

5

Used for coronations

The Stone was taken to Westminster Abbey for Charles III's coronation (2023) and returned to Edinburgh Castle afterwards.



6

The legend

Some believe the Stone kept at Westminster was a fake — that the monks of Scone hid the real Stone before Edward's men arrived. The real Stone may be buried somewhere in Scotland.

