

Date:

Why did Edward I embark on a conquest of the Britain (Wales & Scotland)?

Baron's War: Conflict between Henry III and his Barons relating to the power of the king

Chivalry: A set of rules that a knight must live by, being brave and warrior like for example

The Crusades: A series of wars in the Middle East where the Christians tried to win back the holy lands from the Muslims. The Pope encouraged all leaders of the Christian world to fight in these crusades

Conquest: A mission to take over another country and rule it yourself

Homage: The act of swearing the oath of loyalty and fealty (providing troops if needed) to the king

Aim:

To know the the key wars England fought against Wales & Scotland during the Middle Ages



1265	Prince Edward had been captured during the Baron's war by Simon De Montford
1272	Edward I becomes king of England following the death of his father Henry III
1276-83	Edward I embarks on a conquest of Wales, successfully by 1283
1292	Edward I chooses John Baliol as king of Scotland
1296	Battle of Dunbar – English victory
1297	Battle of Stirling Bridge – Scottish victory
1298	Battle of Falkirk – English victory
1305	William Wallace executed
1307	King Edward I died, replaced by his son Edward II
1314	English army massacred at the Battle of Bannockburn, ending the Scottish wars

Who was Edward I?

Edward I was king of England between 1272 and 1307. He had been a warrior his whole life, even before becoming king fighting in the crusades. He had a very difficult relationship with his father Henry III who had struggled in wars against the Welsh. Edward's father Henry III had also had serious issues with his barons which saw Edward being held captive by their leader Simon De Montford, the leader of Wales. Edward eventually escaped captivity defeating Simon De Montford in 1265. Perhaps more than ever, the power of the monarch was being challenged too much?

Growing up, Edward had been obsessed by the tales of King Arthur spending his life trying to live up to these legends as a knight himself. He believed he was destined to be a great warrior king!

Reading this, why do you think Edward might have wanted to carry on fighting the Welsh after his father died? Try to write at least 2 reasons and explain carefully 'why'...



1. England Vs. Wales 1277-1283

This is Caernarfon Castle, in Wales. Construction began in 1283 during the reign of Edward I



Edward I became known as longshanks, because he was so tall, he was also one of England's most brutal kings. Edward believed England should rule and control the whole of the island of Britain, including Wales, Scotland and Ireland and that they should be loyal to the English crown. Of course, that's not quite how the Welsh and Scottish saw it and their wars lasted for many years.

Write in a full sentence what Edward I's plans were for Britain

▼ **SOURCE B** *Adapted from the 'Song of Lewes' written in around 1264:*

Where unto shall the noble Edward be compared? Perhaps he will be rightly called a leopard. If we divide the name it becomes lion and pard; lion, because we saw that he was not slow to attack the strongest places, fearing the onslaught of none. A lion by pride and fierceness, he is by inconstancy and changeableness a pard, changing his word and promise, cloaking himself by pleasant speech. When he is in a strait he promises whatever you wish, but as soon as he has escaped he renounces his promise.

Read source B very carefully, what is the view of Edward? Is it positive? How? Is it negative? How? Is it a bit of both?

Choose clear evidence to back up your view...

Wales was divided in the 13th Century and ran by Norman lords. The biggest and most powerful area was Gwynedd and the rules of Gwynedd called themselves Prince of Wales. Despite Henry III's many attempts to remove this power base, England had failed.

Edward I's first war against Llywelyn ap Gruffudd was the most critical. Edward demanded that Llywelyn came to Chester in England in 1275 to pay homage to him, effectively accepting that the king of England ruled Wales. Further provocation for Edward was Llywelyn's planned marriage to Eleanor, daughter of Edward's long time enemy Simon De Montford.

Following Llywelyn's failure to pay homage, Edward declared war in November 1276.

Write in full sentences, using your previous knowledge and the paragraph above, answering the following question...

Why was war with Wales inevitable by 1276?

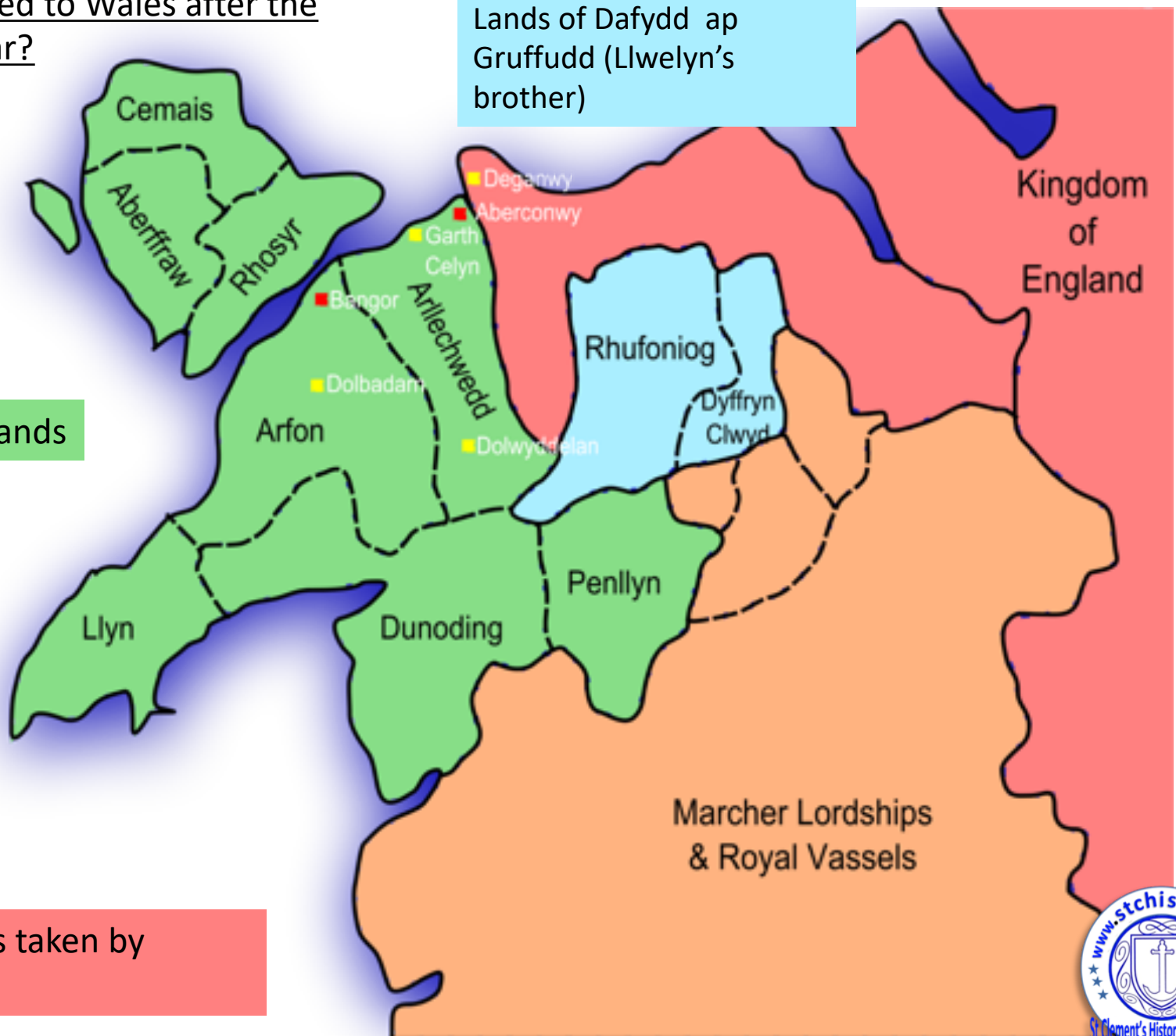
This first campaign was relatively straightforward, many Welsh nobles joining Edward's side. Edward's army of 15,500 men marched into Gwynedd via Chester. Llywelyn realised he stood little chance so quickly surrendered.

What happened to Wales after the first Welsh war?

Lands of Dafydd ap Gruffudd (Llywelyn's brother)

Llywelyn's lands

Welsh lands taken by England



In 1282, as a result of Dafydd starting a rebellion, joined by Llywelyn and other Welsh lords who had grown quickly tired of Edward's overlordship and him trying to impose English laws on Wales.

Edward followed much the same path from 1277 and fought small battles with some successes over the next year. The breakthrough came when Llywelyn left North Wales and was lured into a trap. He was killed at the Battle of Orewin Bridge. Edward seized on this breakthrough by marching into Snowdonia capturing the Welsh stronghold castle.

Dafydd was captured in June 1283 and executed in Shrewsbury. Edward I had successfully conquered Wales costing him around £173,000. There were other little rebellions over the years, but Wales has been annexed by England ever since.

Llywellyn's and his memorial



Daffyd ap Gruffydd

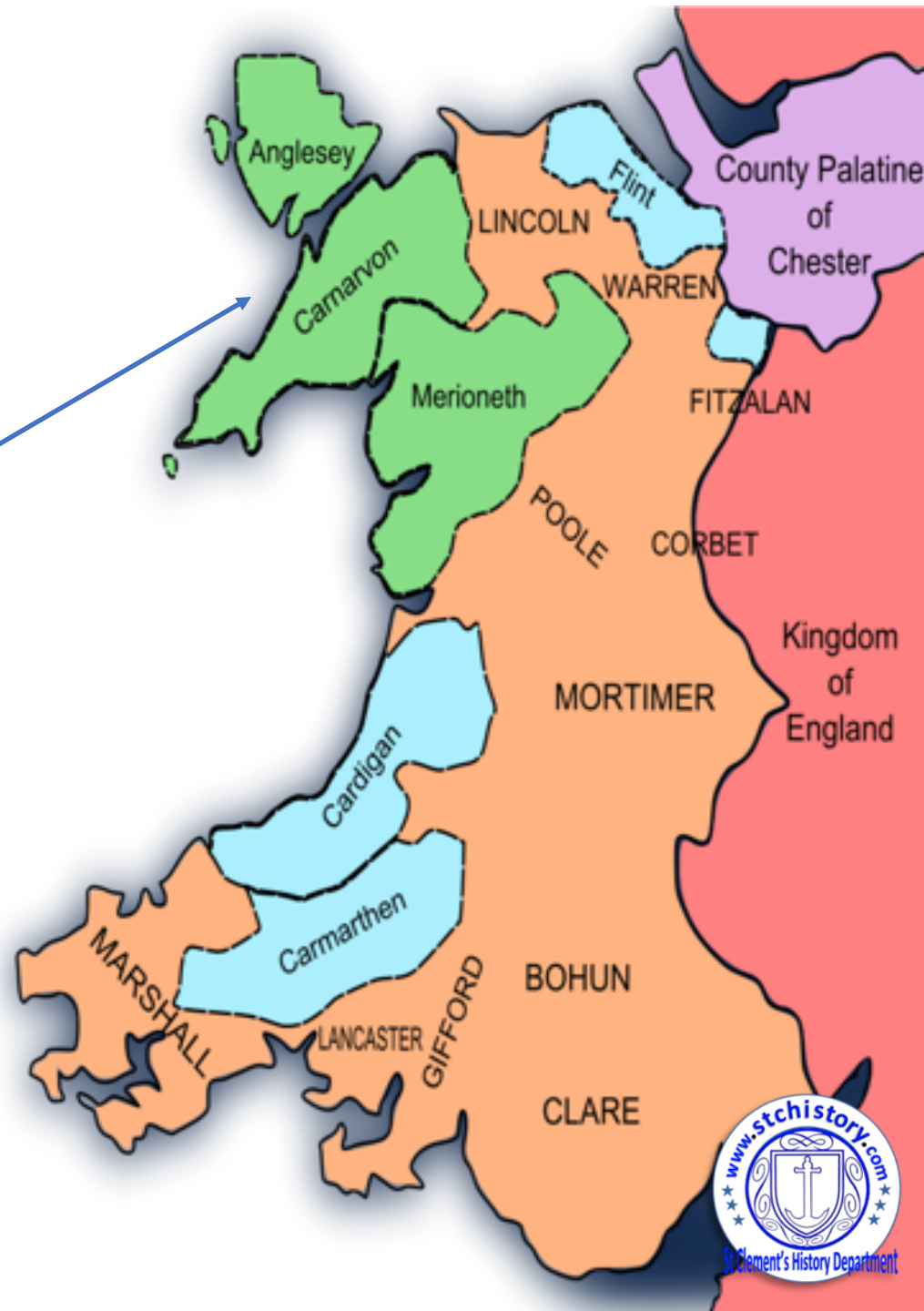
Remaining principality of North Wales

Lands ruled by England's lords

Lands directly ruled by England



How significant do you think Wales' losses were looking at this map following the 1282-83 campaign?



Edward switches his attention to Scotland.



What do you think this image is showing?

- Edward I in the middle
- King Alexander III of Scotland to the left
- Llywellyn to the right

What do you think Edward is trying to say here and how might this link to Edward's coming wars with Scotland?

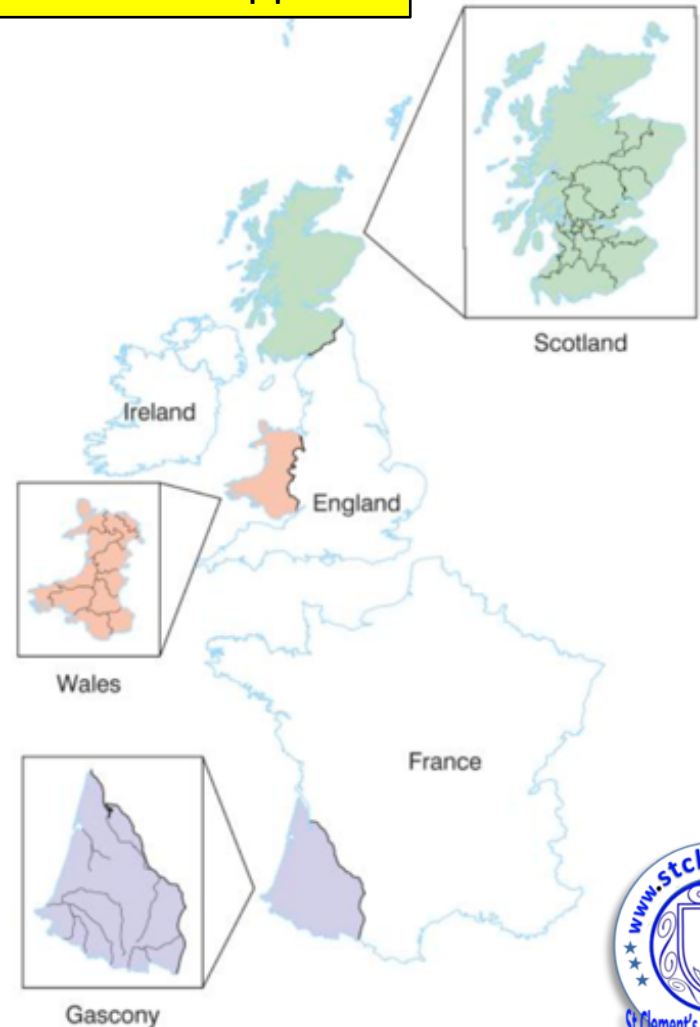
The problems began when Alexander III died with only a 3 year old granddaughter as heir...

As it was, young Margaret died on her journey to Scotland from Norway and left a succession crisis. This became known as the **Great Cause**. Edward I agreed to help decide the leading Scottish claimant to the throne, the two main men were John Baliol and Robert The Bruce. Edward eventually chose John Baliol in 1292.

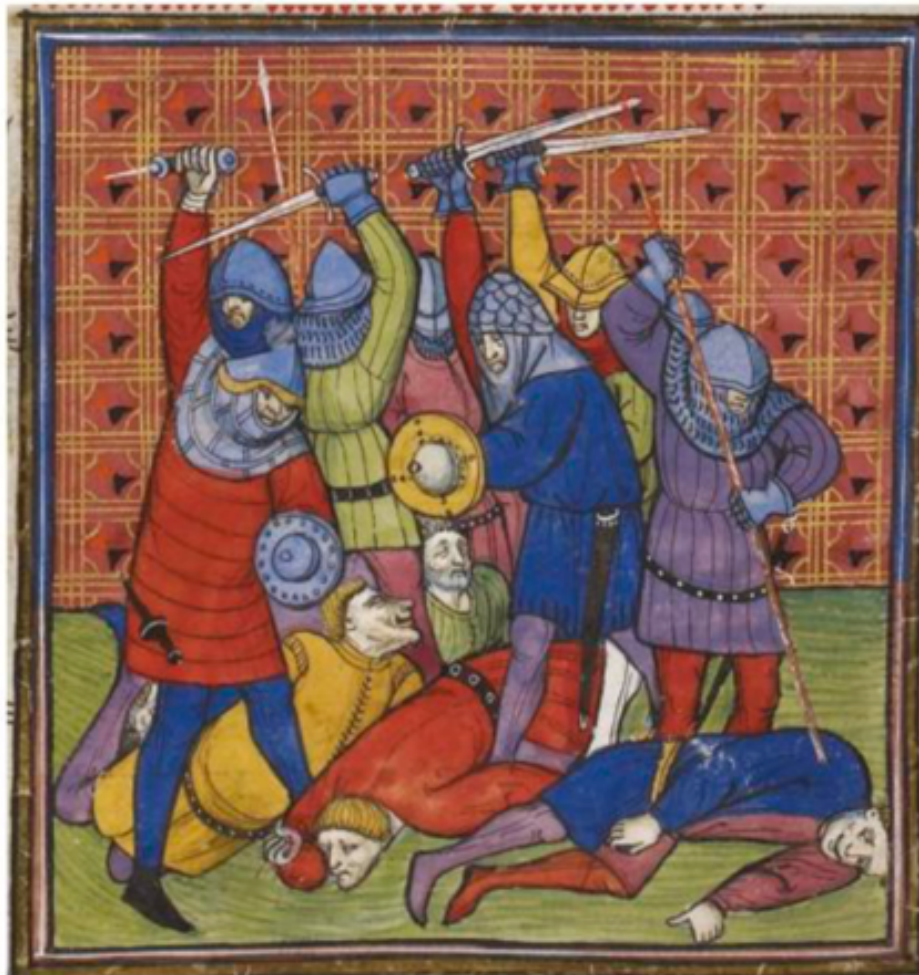
What do you think John might have done to secure Edward's support?

Edward began interfering in Scottish affairs, demanding the Scottish king appeared before the English Parliament. The final straw for John Baliol was when Edward demanded Scottish nobles send men to help him fight the French. The Scots, in protest, attacked Carlisle in 1296. Edward swiftly and brutally responded, crushing his Scottish opponents. Edward then stole the Stone of Scone which was used for Scottish coronations, humiliating the Scots even further.

Who do you think was responsible for the start of the Scottish wars?



▼ **INTERPRETATION B** *A late fourteenth-century French illustration of Edward's attack on Berwick-upon-Tweed*



It was clear that Edward believed he should rule over Scotland, just like Wales, but the Scots were not happy with that arrangement either. Edward sent troops to Berwick upon Tweed, killing thousands, then quickly took Dunbar castle. The scene for war was set...

Edward became known in history as the Hammer of the Scots!

The Battle of Dunbar, 27 April 1296:



Accounts of the battle suggest that it was fought between cavalry and that there were relatively few casualties compared with later battles. The Scots arrived first and positioned themselves at the top of a hill. Their advantage was short lived. Believing the English were retreating, the Scots charged downhill and were met by a very strong English force. The battle was over quickly and a number of important Scottish lords were taken prisoner.

Summarise the Battle of Dunbar into 3 bullet points.

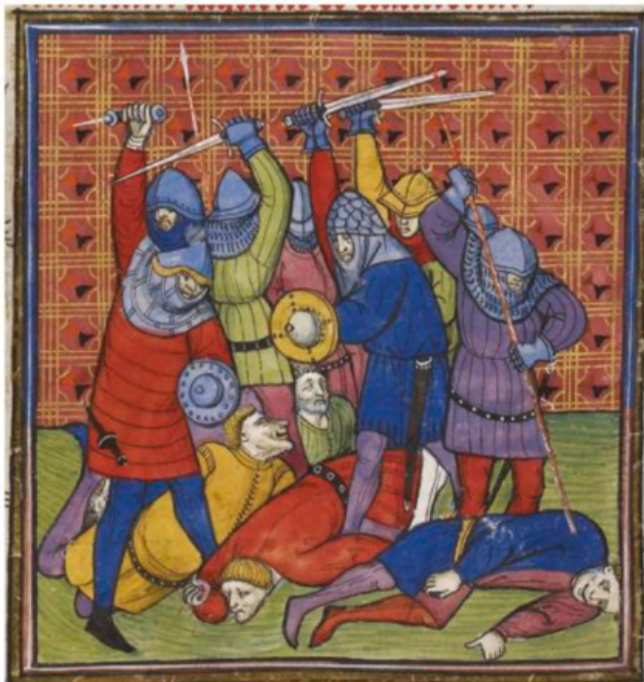
After the battle, Edward swiftly took control of the rest of Scotland. John was captured and stripped of his kingship. Having destroyed the Scots, Edward returned to England with the Stone of Scone. This humiliation was too much.

Do you think Edward's experiences in Wales crossed his mind dealing with Scotland?

Answer the following questions in full sentences:

1. What was the Great Cause?
2. What was Edward's role in the Great Cause?
3. Who were the two claimants to the throne of Scotland?
4. What symbol was important for Scottish coronations?
5. What happened to that symbol?
6. What did Edward I do in 1296?

▼ **INTERPRETATION B** *A late fourteenth-century French illustration of Edward's attack on Berwick-upon-Tweed*



Time for a new hero... Who was William Wallace (Braveheart)?



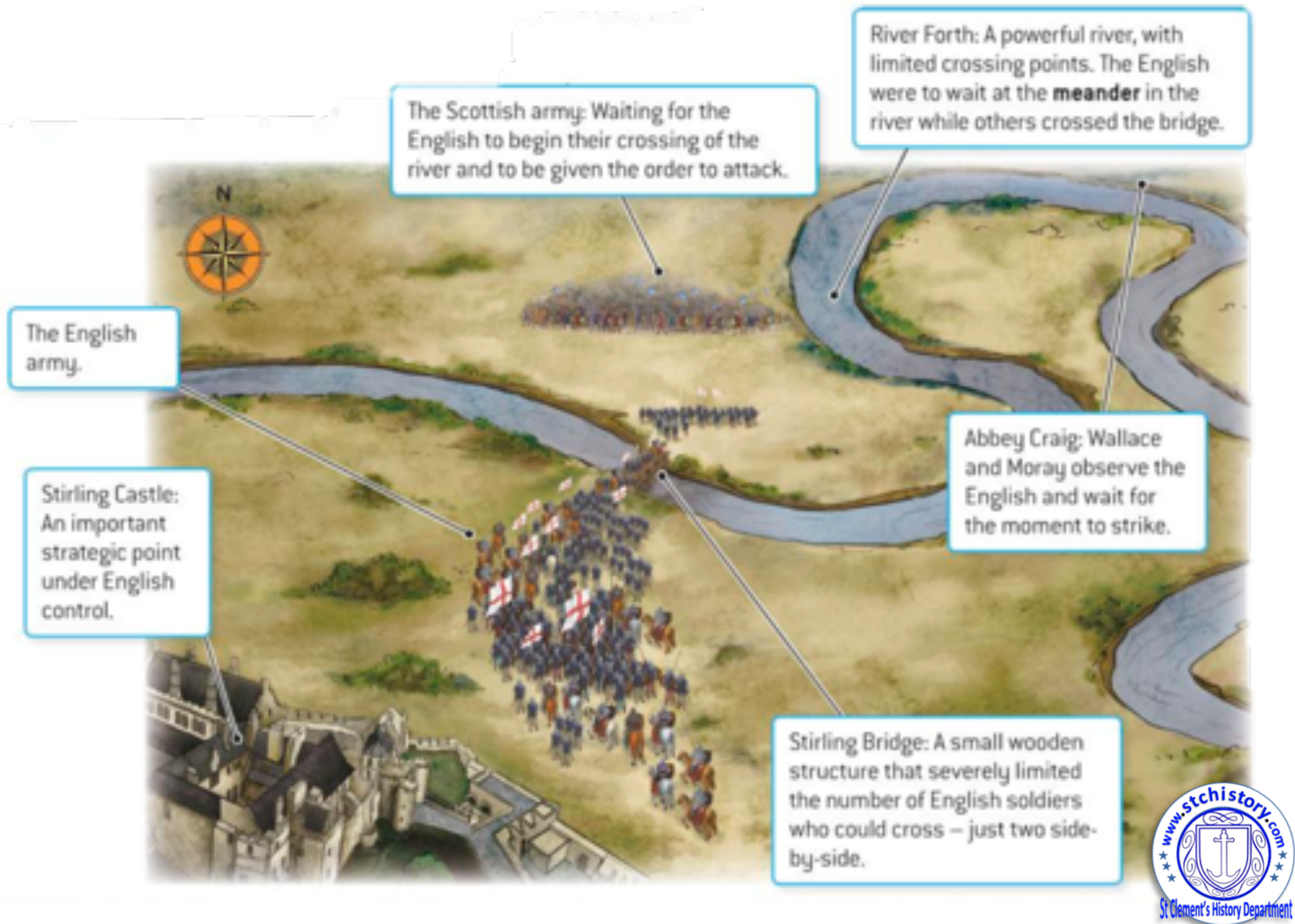
Very little is known of William Wallace, it is thought he was a lesser noble. What is clear is he became a huge figure in Scotland's war of independence. Wallace got involved in guerrilla style fighting (surprise attacks) which brought lots of great successes. He had captured and killed key English nobles, most notably William De Heselrig in 1297.

One of the biggest victories for the Scots in these wars was a surprise win at Stirling Bridge, which brought Wallace the title of 'Guardian of Scotland, leader of the Scottish army and protector of the Scottish people'

INTERPRETATION A A twentieth-century illustration of William Wallace at Stirling Bridge from a children's history magazine



The Battle of Stirling Bridge 11 September 1297



The battle

The only place where it was safe to cross the river was a small wooden bridge, only wide enough to allow two mounted soldiers to cross at a time.

Wallace, Moray and their army watched from a nearby hill as the English set up camp.



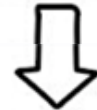
The Scots were outnumbered, particularly when it came to cavalry, and it seemed like it would be another English victory.

The English were arrogantly confident of success and had a low regard for the Scottish troops based on their recent experience at Dunbar.



The English commander, the Earl of Surrey, ordered his men to cross the bridge the following morning, which they began to do at first light.

Unfortunately, Surrey had overslept! When he finally arrived at the battlefield he recalled his men.



After giving the Scots the chance to surrender, Surrey ordered his cavalry to begin crossing the river again and to wait in the bend in the river on the other side.



The Scots just watched before taking action at the right moment. They charged down the hill and blocked the English cavalry's escape back across the bridge, and



trapped those who had crossed into a small area in the bend of the river. They attacked the trapped men, cutting many of them down and forcing others into the deep water where many drowned. Some managed to escape by swimming despite their armour.



H/W: Read through the story board online and write a newspaper front page describing the Battle of Stirling Bridge ...



The battle only lasted an hour but with devastating English losses: 100 knights and 5000 men. The horses were useless in such a tight space. To try to limit the damage and protect his remaining men, Surrey destroyed the bridge. The defeat was crushing and humiliating.

The Battle of Falkirk - August 1298

▼ **INTERPRETATION B** *The Bishop of Durham, one of the commanders of the English cavalry, charges at the Scottish defences; from Cassell's Historical Scrapbook (c1880)*



▼ **INTERPRETATION C** *A twentieth-century illustration of Edward fighting the Scots*



Edward had been involved in an expensive war with the French but had still not retaliated to the Stirling Bridge humiliation a year earlier. Edward took 2000 cavalry and 12000 infantry as well as thousands of volunteers.

Wallace knew his army would be no match for the mighty English force and so he adopted a clever strategy. He retreated destroying all supplies as they went, hoping the English would become weakened due to a lack of food, the Scots would then turn and attack the retreating English. This tactic seemed to work and just as the English were about to retreat Edward heard Wallace was close, just 13 miles away.

As the English approached, the Scottish army was ready, they formed 4 giant schiltrons of hundreds of spears and pikes that impaled the English cavalry. Despite the Scottish success, they panicked and rode away from the battlefield leaving the English archers to rain arrows from above destroying the Scottish army! Edward had won a major victory.

Write in full sentences: What happened at Falkirk in 1298

Defeat for Wallace at the Battle of Falkirk in 1298 damaged his reputation. He gave up his title but continued to fight bravely against the English. He was betrayed by a Scottish noble and handed over to the English on the 5th August 1305. He was taken to London and put on trial for treason. He said at his execution that he “was not a subject of King Edward and so could not have committed treason”.



Wallace was dragged through the streets of London by horse before being hanged, drawn and quartered. His head was displayed on a spike on London Bridge and his body parts were sent to Newcastle (north of England), Berwick, Stirling and Perth (Scotland)

How did the Scottish wars end?

After Wallace's death, Robert the Bruce declared himself king of Scotland. He attacked the English across Scotland until by 1313 the only castle left in English hands was Stirling Castle. Edward had died in 1307 whilst leading his army in Scotland.

The new king, Edward II sent an army north to finally put an end to the Scottish. In 1314, the Scottish massacred Edward's English army at the battle of Bannockburn. Scotland had regained its independence and would remain separated from England until King James VI of Scotland became James I of England in 1603 following the death of Tudor queen, Elizabeth I, he was now ruling both countries.

1. What 3 battles took place during the Scottish wars with England?
2. Who was Scotland's warrior hero?
3. What happened to him?
4. Which battle saw the Scots heavily defeated?
5. What was Edward I's nickname based on his treatment of the Scots?