

# Burns Night

Burns Night is celebrated around the world every year. It is a time when people remember a famous Scottish poet called Robert Burns.



## Robert Burns

Robert Burns was born on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1759.

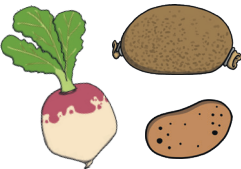
He wrote many famous poems and songs.

He is also called Rabbie Burns.

## Burns Night



Burns Night is celebrated on or around 25<sup>th</sup> January.



People eat haggis, neeps and tatties. Haggis is a type of sausage held inside a sheep's stomach. Neeps are turnips or swede. Tatties are potatoes.



Some people like to read Robert Burns's poems or sing his songs on Burns Night.

# Questions

1. Who was Robert Burns? Tick one.

- ☐ a famous chef
- ☐ a famous poet
- ☐ a famous actor

2. When is Burns Night celebrated? Tick one.

- ☐ 25<sup>th</sup> July
- ☐ 25<sup>th</sup> June
- ☐ 25<sup>th</sup> January

3. What other name is Robert Burns known as? Tick one.

- ☐ Robbie Burns
- ☐ Richard Burns
- ☐ Rabbie Burns

4. What do some people like to read on Burns Night? Tick one.

- ☐ poems
- ☐ books
- ☐ newspapers

5. What are neeps? Tick one.

- ☐ turnips or swede
- ☐ potatoes
- ☐ carrots

# Answers

1. Who was Robert Burns? Tick one.

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- ☒ **a famous poet**
- ☐ a famous actor

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- ☒ **Rabbie Burns**

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- ☐ books
- ☐ newspapers

5. What are neeps? Tick one.

- ☒ **turnips or swede**
- ☐ potatoes
- ☐ carrots

# Burns Night

Burns Night is a time when people remember a famous Scottish poet called Robert Burns. It is celebrated around the world every year.



## Robert Burns

Robert Burns was born on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1759 in Scotland. He wrote many famous poems and songs about things that were important to him. Robert Burns is also known as Rabbie Burns.

He wrote the famous song 'Auld Lang Syne'. This is a song that lots of people like to sing at midnight on New Year's Eve.

## Burns Night

Burns Night is celebrated on or around 25<sup>th</sup> January. People gather together to eat a special meal of haggis, neeps and tatties. Haggis is a type of sausage stuffed inside a sheep's stomach. Neeps are turnips or swedes and tatties are potatoes. These are cooked and mashed.

Dessert is often a dish called cranachan, which is whipped cream mixed with raspberries and oat cakes.

Some people might read some of Robert Burns's poetry or sing some of his songs as part of their celebrations.

Male guests traditionally wear kilts and women wear dresses or skirts in their family tartan.

Tartan is a thick woollen cloth that has been woven with different colours and patterns. The colours represent different parts of Scotland or families.



# Questions

1. Where was Robert Burns from? Tick one.

- ☐ Wales
- ☐ Scotland
- ☐ England
- ☐ Ireland

2. Find and copy a word that shows that Robert Burns is well known.

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3. When do people like to sing Auld Lang Syne? Tick one.

- ☐ at midnight on Christmas Day
- ☐ at midnight on Boxing Day
- ☐ at midnight on New Year's Eve
- ☐ at midnight on New Year's Day

4. What is the first fact that we learn about in this text?

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5. Draw **three** lines to match each type of food with its Scottish name.

haggis

tatties

cranachan

potatoes

a type of sausage in  
a sheep's stomach

cream, raspberries  
and oatcakes

# Answers

1. Where was Robert Burns from? Tick one.

- ☐ Wales
- ☒ **Scotland**
- ☐ England
- ☐ Ireland

2. Find and copy a word that shows that Robert Burns is well known.

**famous**

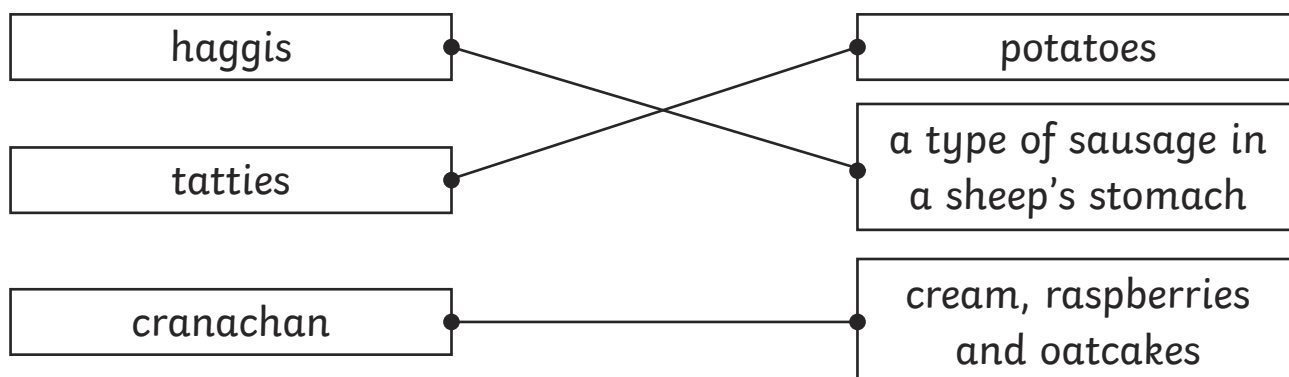
3. When do people like to sing Auld Lang Syne? Tick one.

- ☐ at midnight on Christmas Day
- ☐ at midnight on Boxing Day
- ☒ **at midnight on New Year's Eve**
- ☐ at midnight on New Year's Day

4. What is the first fact that we learn about in this text?

**The first fact we learn is that Burns Night is when people remember a famous Scottish poet called Robert Burns.**

5. Draw **three** lines to match each type of food with its Scottish name.





# Burns Night

Burns Night is celebrated around the world every year. It is a time when people remember a famous Scottish poet called Robert Burns.

## Burns Night

Many people hold a Burns supper on or around his birthday. This is a celebration of Scottish culture and of the Scottish poet Robert Burns. It may be a large, organised event or a small gathering of family and friends. The menu traditionally includes haggis, neeps and tatties.

Haggis is a type of sausage stuffed inside a sheep's stomach and is often presented to the guests on a silver platter. Neeps are turnips or a swede which is cooked and mashed. Tatties are potatoes and they are also served mashed.

Dessert is usually a dish called cranachan which is whipped cream mixed with raspberries and oat cakes. After the meal, some people might read some of Robert Burns's poetry or sing some of his songs. An organised event might include entertainment by singers or musicians who perform some of his poems and songs, such as 'My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose' and 'Tam o'Shanter.' Traditionally, male guests wear kilts and women wear dresses or skirts in their family tartan.



## Did You Know...?

Tartan is a heavy woollen cloth woven to make different patterns. The patterns and colours of the tartan represent different areas of Scotland or families.



## Robert Burns

Robert Burns was born in Alloway in Scotland on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1759. He grew up and worked on a farm with his parents and was the oldest of seven children.

He wrote many poems and songs.

His most famous song is 'Auld Lang Syne' which is sung across the world at midnight on New Year's Eve in order to welcome in the new year.

Robert Burns is an important historical figure in Scotland and is sometimes referred to as Rabbie Burns. A museum about his life has been created in the cottage where he was born in Scotland.

# Questions

1. How many brothers and sisters did Robert Burns have? Tick one.

- ☐ six
- ☐ two
- ☐ five
- ☐ seven

2. What is the name of Robert Burns's most famous song?

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3. Which of these foods is **not** traditionally eaten at a Burns supper? Tick one.

- ☐ haggis
- ☐ tatties
- ☐ peas
- ☐ neeps

4. Fill in the missing word in this sentence.

Tartan is a heavy woollen cloth \_\_\_\_\_  
to make different patterns.

5. Find and copy a word that shows that guests might be amused after finishing their Burns supper.

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6. Which part of the Burns supper would you most like to eat?  
Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. How many brothers and sisters did Robert Burns have? Tick one.

- ☒ **six**
- ☐ two
- ☐ five
- ☐ seven

2. What is the name of Robert Burns's most famous song?

**Robert Burns's most famous song is Auld Lang Syne.**

3. Which of these foods is **not** traditionally eaten at a Burns supper? Tick one.

- ☐ haggis
- ☐ tatties
- ☒ **peas**
- ☐ neeps

4. Fill in the missing words in this sentence.

Tartan is a heavy woollen cloth **woven** to make different patterns.

5. Find and copy a word that shows that guests might be amused after finishing their Burns supper.

**entertained**

6. Which part of the Burns supper would you most like to eat?  
Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would most like to eat cranachan at a Burns supper because it says that it is whipped cream mixed with raspberries and oatcakes. I really like cream and raspberries so this sounds like the nicest part of the supper.**