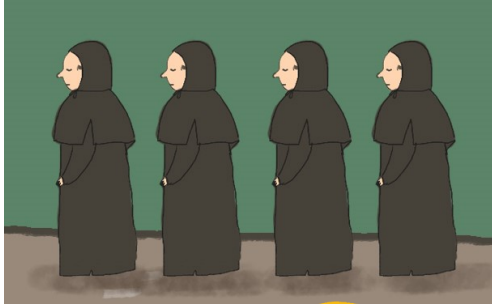


# Family Holyrood Abbey Tour



Welcome to Holyrood Abbey. Use this activity trail to help you explore the ruins of this medieval site.



King David I founded this Abbey in 1128 — nearly 900 years ago! Priests, called canons, lived and worshipped here for hundreds of years.



**Look for the information board** near to the entrance of the Abbey.

The picture shows you what the Abbey looked like when the canons lived here. It was double the size it is today!



## Spot the Difference

The Abbey was attacked more than once during fighting in Edinburgh. It has also been damaged by bad weather over the years.

Compare the picture on the board with how the Abbey looks today.

Can you spot where these things used to be:

- pillars
- decorated walls
- roof

What other differences can you see?

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## Looking after the sick

The canons built a hospital next to the Abbey and made medicine from plants to help sick and poor people. There were lots of horrible illnesses in Edinburgh back then so this was important work.

Unscramble the letters to find out names of two of the worst diseases.

UPGEAL \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

ORYESLP \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Sometimes the canons died from these diseases and were buried in the Abbey. Can you find two of their coffins?

## Did you know?

The canons' day started at 1.30am when they got up to pray.

They grew their own food, plants and vegetables in the grounds outside the abbey.

The canons looked after sheep and used wool to make clothes. They didn't eat sheep though as most of them were vegetarians!

**The Missing Tower**

Can you find the abbey tower? □

There actually used to be two.

Where do you think the other one used to be? Can you find any evidence to help you?

MAIN WINDOW

ENTRANCE

EXISTING TOWER

**?**

**Clue!**

The second tower was taken down to make room to build part of the Palace.



**Grave Investigation**

Gravestones can tell us lots about people who lived a long time ago. Choose one of the gravestones and see if you can find out :

The person's name .....

The year they were born ..... The year they died .....

Anything else? Does the stone tell you if they had a job or who was in their family for example? .....


.....



Now make your way through the large main door to the outside of the Abbey

**Keeping Evil Away**

The canons wanted people to feel safe and protected when they visited the Abbey. Look closely. Can you spot the two gargoyles on either side of the door? □



These unfriendly faces were carved at the entrance of the Abbey to frighten away evil spirits.

Could you frighten away scary spirits? Make your best gargoyle face!

Look closely. What else would protect you as you walked in to the Abbey?


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**Repair the Canons' Faces**

When the canons used to live here, they had beautifully carved statues of themselves on the outside of the Abbey.

Can you imagine what they used to look like? Draw their faces in the box below and return the canons to their former glory.



Congratulations! You've reached the end of the trail. We hope you enjoyed exploring the Abbey.