

Unit 7 What's true or untrue about the past? How do we know? SOC 1-01a, 2-01a



Talking Point

What's true/untrue about the past? How do we decide?

Activity 1

Study the statements A to E about monasteries. Choose one and look for evidence for or against it in the boxes below. Using this evidence decide which of these statements are True or False. You can also use any other facts you have learned about life in Scottish Monasteries. If you can't decide, say why not.

- A. Most monks and nuns could not read or write.
- B. Monks and nuns were greedy.
- C. Life in a monastery was very hard.
- D. Monks and nuns lived very simple lives with only the few possessions they required.
- E. Monks and nuns helped people.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p><i>St Margaret's Gospel</i></p>  <p>In the 13th century Dunfermline Abbey had 43 books, all hand-written. This is a copy of one of them.</p> <p>1</p> |  <p>Part of 14th century bone spectacles from Melrose Abbey. They clip on the nose.</p> <p>2</p> | <p><i>The will of the Prioress of Haddington, 1563:</i> 495 gold crowns and a crimson velvet belt to Marion Hepburn.</p> <p>3</p> |
| <p>The Friars of Haddington kept an alms house where poor and sick people were looked after.</p> <p>4</p> | <p><i>Some Benedictines changed the food rules to suit themselves.</i> Because they live in water, dolphins and seals are like fish and can be eaten.</p> <p>5</p> | <p>'Pray and Work' <i>The motto of the Cistercians</i></p> <p>6</p> |
| <p>In 1560 the 18 nuns in Haddington Priory employed 3 cooks and a brewer to make their beer.</p> <p>7</p> | <p><i>Rules of St Benedict</i></p> <p>No one should eat the meat of four-footed animals except for sick people who are very weak.</p> <p>8</p> | <p>Apart from his clothes and bedding, a monk could own a bowl, cup, spoon, knife, comb, needle and thread.</p> <p>9</p> |
| <p>The Black Friars in Glasgow lent their classroom to the new University of Glasgow when it started in 1451.</p> <p>10</p> | <p>Only two rooms were heated in a monastery – the warming room and the sick room.</p> <p>11</p> | <p>Monasteries provided free accommodation for pilgrims and other travellers.</p> <p>12</p> |

Plenary

From all the work on monasteries that you have done, do you think life would have been easy or tough and why? What kinds of people today lead lives similar to medieval monks or nuns? Do you think you would like to find out more?

KEY

Activity 1

| | Evidence for | Evidence against |
|---|--------------|------------------|
| A | 3 | 1, 2, 10 |
| B | 5, 7 | 8 |
| C | 6, 9, 11 | 7 |
| D | 9 | 3 |
| E | 4, 10, 12 | |

From Unit 2 pupils could add information about the daily life of a Cistercian monk – hard work but some time for games. From Unit 4 they could add some of the activities that monks and nuns performed.