

# Robert Burns Birthplace Museum



**Activities to help you prepare for your visit to  
the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum**

# How should I behave in a museum?



- The Burns cottage was built in 1757, that means it is \_\_\_\_ years old.
- People have been visiting the cottage for over 100 years, to see where Robert Burns was born.
- Here are some ways that we can all help to look after the Burns cottage for people in the future.

## LOOK

### L - Listen to the teachers and guides

The teachers who are taking you to the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum and the guides who are showing you round want you to get the most out of your visit to the museum and cottage.

### O – Objects

Some of the objects in the cottage are meant to be touched. But you should only touch an object if you have been told you are allowed to. This is because you might break one of the objects, or hurt someone with the object.

### O - Other visitors

Lots of visitors come from all over the world to visit the Burns cottage and the museum. People might get angry if they think their visit is being disrupted.

### K – Knowledge

You can gain new knowledge by looking at the objects, reading descriptions, listening to poems, playing the interactive games and asking questions. We also want you to share your knowledge, this means taking part in activities at the museum, or letting us know what you already know about Robert Burns.

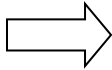
L.O.O.K is an acronym. An acronym is when you make a word out of the first letter of a set of words. Other examples of acronyms include:

ABBA  
Agnetha  
Benny  
Björn  
Anni-Frid



POTUS  
President of the United States

There are lots of ways you can use acronyms to remember how you should or shouldn't behave in a museum, here is an example:



D – Don't run  
A – Ask before touching  
T – Think about other people  
A – Always be polite

Now think about the things that you should or shouldn't do in a museum, and make up your own acronym help you remember:

Thanks for learning about how to behave in a museum. We are looking forward to meeting you when you come to visit the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum!



ROBERT  
BURNS  
BIRTHPLACE  
MUSEUM

# What do we know about Robert Burns?

Use this box to write everything you know about Robert Burns as a person:

Use this box to write everything you know about the poems and songs Robert Burns wrote:

Now talk to everyone else to find out what they know about Robert Burns. You can write what you find out in these boxes.

Use this box to write everything you have found out about Robert Burns from other people:

Use this box to write everything you have found out about Robert Burns' poems and songs from other people:



Use the boxes below to design and write a leaflet for someone who has never heard of Robert Burns.

You should think about answering these questions:

Who was Robert Burns?

When was Robert Burns alive?

What did Robert Burns do?

Where can you find out more about Robert Burns?

**Burns for Beginners**

*“The one stop shop for anyone who wants to find out more about Robert Burns”*



# Themes

A 'theme' means a set of ideas about a subject that you can find in a poem, book, song, film, painting, or any other created artwork. Something can have more than one theme.

For example: 'A Christmas Carol' includes themes like 'greed' and 'the supernatural'

Here are three boxes with different themes. Write a film or book for each theme:

The theme of 'the supernatural':

The theme of 'family':

The theme of 'the environment':

Now look at these extracts from Robert Burns poems. Circle the theme that fits the poem

Cotillon –  
A cotillon  
is a French  
dance

## From 'Tam o' Shanter'

Warlocks and witches in a dance:

Nae cotillon, brent new frae France,

But hornpipes, jigs, strathspeys, and reels,

Put life and mettle in their heels.

## Themes

The supernatural

Family

The environment

## Themes

The supernatural

Family

The environment

## From 'The Cotter's Saturday Night'

With joy unfeign'd, brothers and sisters meet,

And each for other's weelfare kindly speirs:

The social hours, swift-wing'd, unnotic'd fleet:

Each tells the uncos that he sees or hears.

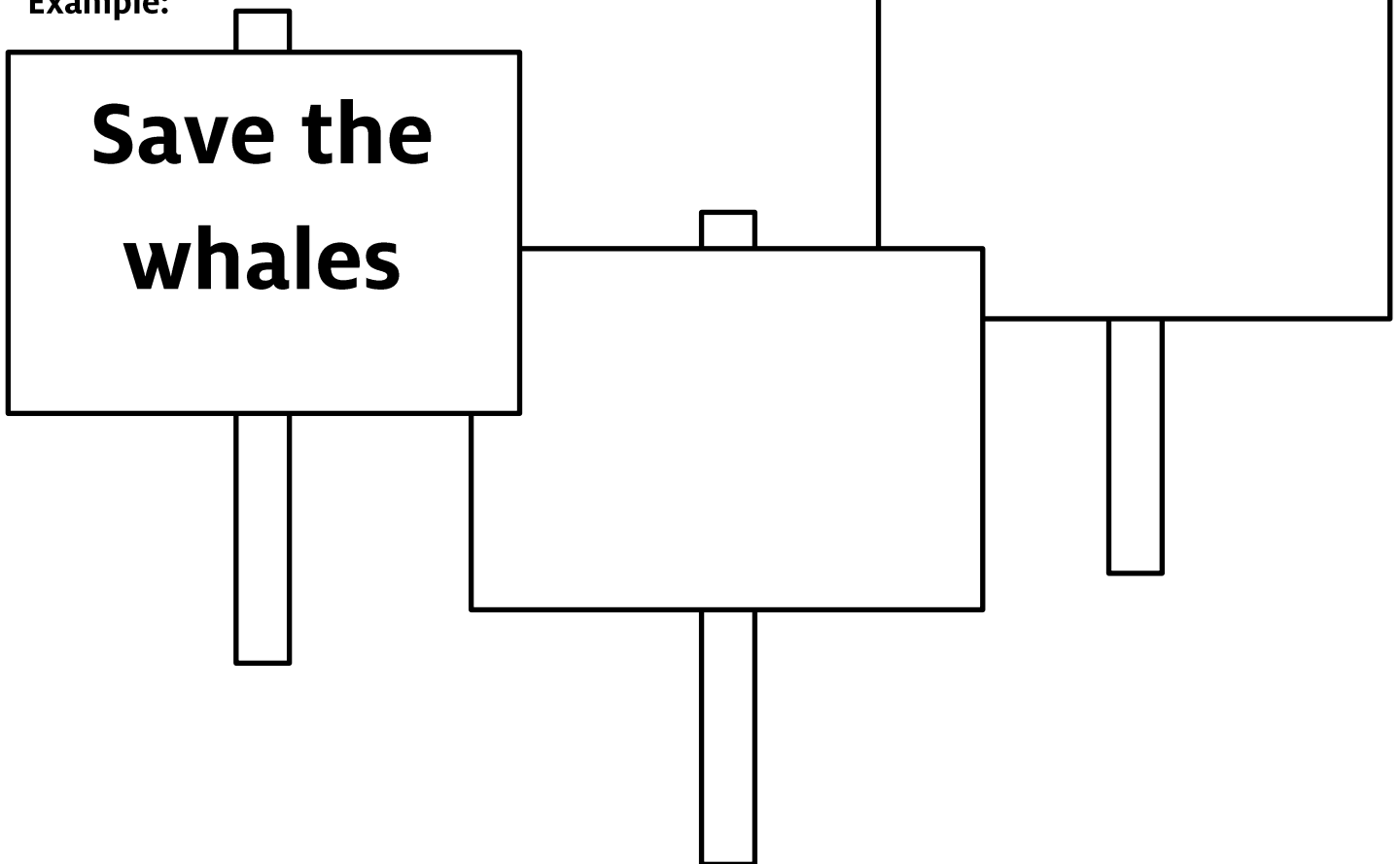
# Right or wrong?

Think about things that are happening in the world that you think are wrong. Write them in the box underneath.

Sometimes when people think that something is wrong they protest against it. Protesters want politicians, newspapers and members of the public to know about what they think is wrong.

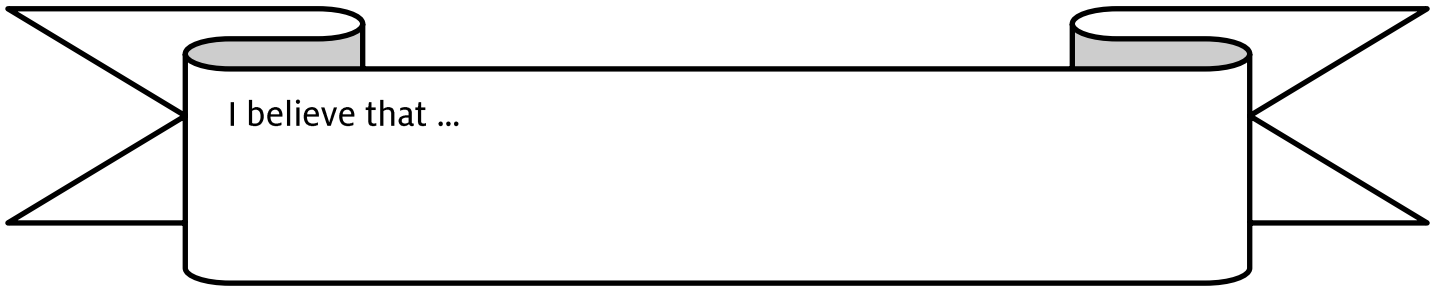
Often protesters carry signs with catchy slogans written on them. A slogan is short and it is easy to remember. Think about the problems you wrote in the box, use these to write your own protest slogan on one of these signs.

Example:



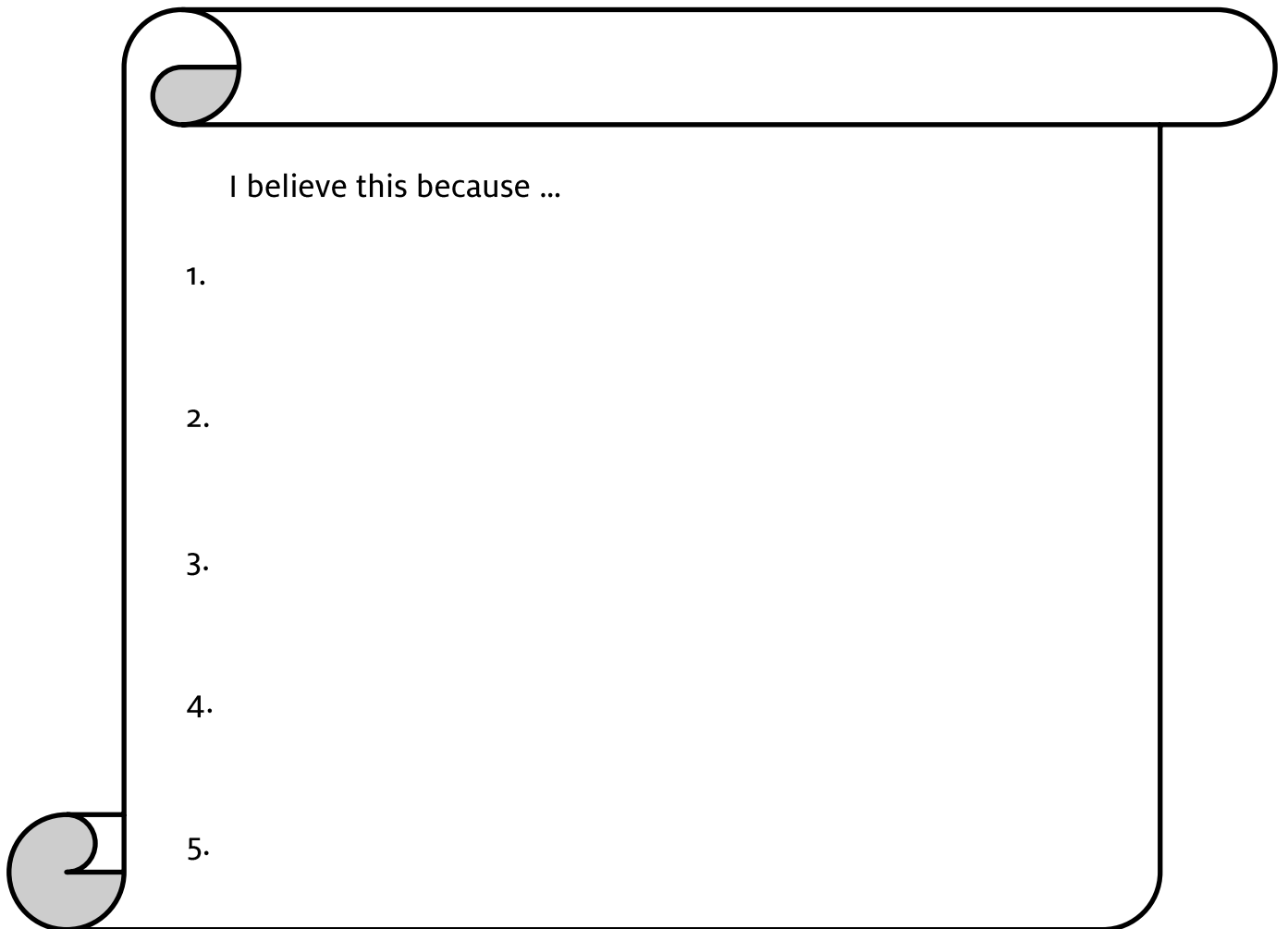
# Debate

Your teacher will now give you a topic that you will be arguing for or against. Write the argument that you will be making in this box:



I believe that ...

You can use the box below to write down five things that back up your argument:



I believe this because ...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

You should now have a good enough argument to try and convince someone you are right. Debate with the other person in your pair to try and change their mind.