

## Who's involved?

A wide range of cultural, environmental, heritage and scientific bodies are supporting **Enlightenment Made Easy**, including:



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Aerial image: Courtesy of Edinburgh World Heritage  
Robert Burns Image: University of Edinburgh

## What's involved?

**Professional learning:**  
Fun, informative and high quality sessions for teachers

**Online resources:**  
Ideal for use in the classroom, as well as off-site visits to world-class places in Edinburgh

**A Great Young Minds Society:**  
A club your class can join so that you can take part in visits, debates and activities with other classes and schools involved in the project, just like the great thinkers did during the Enlightenment.

**It's a flexible package:**  
You can pick and choose which bits work best for you and your pupils. That's the great thing about the Enlightenment - there's something for everyone!

## Take part

Find out more about how you can use the Scottish Enlightenment to help inspire your pupils. For more information about getting involved, contact details, fact files and more visit:

[www.ewht.org.uk/enlightenmentmadeeasy](http://www.ewht.org.uk/enlightenmentmadeeasy)



Igniting a fire in young minds through the genius of the Scottish Enlightenment

A package of learning ideas to inspire teachers and pupils



The Enlightenment was one of the most exciting, innovative and influential periods in Scottish history, and its achievements still impact on us today.

Now, a group of leading Edinburgh-based cultural, scientific, environmental and heritage organisations have come together in partnership with a new programme which helps deliver interdisciplinary learning through the places, people, ideas and creations of the Scottish Enlightenment.

The same values which made Georgian Scots world leaders, are the values which underpin the Curriculum for Excellence.

The zest for learning, spirit of inquiry, and desire for debate made the men and women of the Enlightenment global citizens, at the forefront of new ideas affecting almost every area of life.

Let's unleash a new Age of Enlightenment in Scottish schools!

## What was the Scottish Enlightenment?

The Scottish Enlightenment was part of a wider European movement, reaching its height in this country between 1750-1800. The great French philosopher and historian Voltaire (1694-1778) said 'We look to Scotland for all our ideas of civilisation'.

At this time European thinkers challenged old ideas about almost every aspect of life. They argued that the way forward was to use "reason" when seeking answers to questions. People should not just accept what they were told, they should question ideas. It was the beginning of the modern world as we know it.



The Scottish Enlightenment covers some things you already teach, like Robert Burns, but there are also other areas of study, including the elegance and mathematics of Robert Adams' architecture, or the work of the young Edinburgh architect, James Craig which has influenced modern urban planning.

We are all fascinated and terrified by volcanoes and it was James Hutton sitting amongst Arthur's Seat, the Craggs and Castle Hill who first looked at the science behind this. It was the forgetful but very clever man Adam Smith whose writings still influence world governments today.



## Is this just a history topic?

No - it's so much more...!

The Enlightenment is probably the most important piece of Scottish history in the last 300 years - it influences everything we do today and it influenced the entire world.

It touches on every area of the Curriculum for Excellence: expressive arts, health and wellbeing, languages, mathematics, religious and moral education, sciences, social studies and technologies are all covered in this one exciting topic - it's as if the Scottish Enlightenment had been invented for active learning.

Teachers can use this partnership initiative to develop interdisciplinary learning programmes which work for them and their pupils, with innovative approaches, relevant content and valuable experiences.



## Edinburgh: City of Genius

The Scottish Enlightenment was particularly focused on Edinburgh where a group of extraordinary people came together to create possibly the most dynamic city on Earth.

Many of the greatest scientists, artists, philosophers, designers, writers, economists and more were all working side by side, bouncing their ideas off each other, learning from their friends, and debating their discoveries.

They were interested in everything and were truly interdisciplinary in their approaches. They tended to know one another and socialised together. They had much in common, but above all, they shared two principles: **Observation & Analysis**.

