

## Elizabeth Melville, Lady Culross

### Primary activities

Elizabeth Melville wis the first wummin in Scotland tae see her wark in prent. She yaised a mixer o the Calvinist themes o the Faw, Redemption an Grace along wi the weel-foondit traditions o Scots poetry tae heeze up the Christian message o resurrection an salvation.

The popularity o the 1603 imprentin o Elizabeth's 'Ane godly dreame' led tae it bein transcribit in English the follaein year, wi successive imprents makkin it a powerfu wark oot-thru the religious strauchles o the 17th century.

Foregane generations o Melville's faimily wir insnorit in the intrigues o the Reformation in Scotland. Her grandfaither wis executit fir takkin pairt in the Protestant cause in 1548, whiles faither Sir James Melville - kent fir scribein memoirs wi regards the relationship atween Scotland an France - served in baith the coort o Mary Queen o Scots then that o King James VI whiles uphauadin his Reformed faith. Elizabeth Melville defied Royal authority bi scribein potentially treasonous poems in support o religiopolitical prisoners.

Elizabeth Melville is myndit in the settin o a flagstane in her honour at Makars Coort in Edinburgh, unhappit bi Germaine Greer in 2014.

Hae a wee luik at the questions ablow. Wark wi a pairtner an mynd ye can answer in aither Scots or English.

1. Why should we mynd Elizabeth Melville?
2. Why dae ye think she scrievit in Scots?
3. Whit religion wis Elizabeth Melville?
4. Can ye think o ony reasons why her scrievin wis popular wi some 17th century Scots fowk?
5. Hae a wee luik at [Education Scotland's History of Scots resource PDF:](#)
  - a. Who wis king o Scotland when Elizabeth Melville scrievit 'Ane godly dream'? Whit religion wis he?  
Dae ye think he wid o liked this poem? Gie reasons fir yer answer.
6. King Charles I wis king o Scotland, England an Ireland frae 1625 until his execution in 1649. He wis mairit tae Henrietta Maria, a Roman Cathoilig frae France, an his ain kind o Protestantism wis closer tae Catholicism than Calvinism in Scotland. A guid wheen o Scots Protestants werenae content as they thocht that Charles wis etflin tae mak Scotland a Catholic kintra sic as France. Whit daes 'treasonous' mean? Why dae ye think the king micht o thocht Elizabeth's poems were treasonous?
7. Whit daes this tell ye aboot whit fowk thocht wis important in 17th century Scotland? Is it ony different the day? Gie reasons fir yer answer.
8. Whit can ye airt oot aboot Germaine Greer an whit she is weel-kent fir?  
Why dae ye think she wis asked tae unhappit Elizabeth Melville's flagstane at Makars Coort in Edinburgh?
9. Whit dae ye think o Elizabeth Melville?  
Can ye think o 5 adjectives tae describe her?  
Wi yer pairtner, mak a leaflet fir Makars Coort aboot hou we should mynd her an her wark.