Mary Queen of Scots is a complex historical persona. She has a significant place in Scottish, English and British history and is a required character to study for the Scottish curriculum, (which is extremely good and well worth looking at, if only to envy, if you teach in England!) She was a direct descendant of Robert the Bruce and a direct ancestor of Princes William and Harry, (Princess Diana was descended, illegitimately, from Charles the Second).

We have tried to make sure this activity is not anglo-centric and would particularly welcome feedback from Scotland. The Family Tree Activity is intended as an introductory activity to this complex lineage. Children will get practice in navigating the format and conventions of a family tree.

There are 16 character cards with various characters speaking about their relationship to Mary. The cards need to be cut up. Children should be in groups of 4. Each group needs one set of character information cards and two family trees. Children should start work in pairs, Each pair takes 8 cards to read the clues and work out the name of the character - they should then join with another pair, who have the other 8 cards, to swap information. At the end of this research they should finally be given the name labels to match to their character cards.

This activity could feed into a number of pieces of work, for example chronology of Mary’s life, examination of common stories about her, discussion of the position of women in these times, annotated portrait gallery ...etc.

Web address www.collaborativelearning.org/maryqueenofscotsfamilytree.pdf

Last updated 1st May 2012
I was Mary's mother. When she became Queen she was not old enough to rule a country so she had regents. I became regent when she was 12 and I took her to France to marry the Dauphin so she would be queen of France as well as Scotland.

I was Mary's Great-uncle - I was king of England and had three children who were all King or Queen of England.

I had no grandchildren.

I was Mary's son. I had the same name as my Grandfather. I never knew my mother as she went away when I was just a baby and she stayed in prison for years.

I was Mary's grandson. My father was the first Tudor king of England and my brother had many wives. When my Scottish husband died I married again and my grandson on that side of the family married Mary.

I was Mary's grandmother. My father was the first Tudor king of England and my brother had many wives. When my Scottish husband died I married again and my grandson on that side of the family married Mary.
I was Mary’s father. I had the same name as my father and my grandson. My family can be traced back to a great king of Scotland so Mary was also his descendant.

I was Mary’s cousin and her husband. Our son became King of Scotland AND England and was the first Stuart King of England. I died in a big explosion.

I was Mary’s great-grandfather. I was descended from the old Welsh Kings and I became King of England when I won the battle of Bosworth. Three of my grandchildren ruled England but the Tudor line I started died out with my younger granddaughter.

Mary’s father was my cousin. I was worried that people would help Mary take my throne so I kept her locked up in the middle of England, far from the sea and from Scotland and London. I signed her death warrant.
Mary’s father was my cousin. I did not really know her but she was supposed to marry me when we grew up. This was arranged when she was a baby. I became king when I was 9 years old and died when I was 16. I had no children and after I died there was an argument about who should be the next ruler. My cousin’s poor daughter had her head chopped off.

I was Mary’s grandson. I had a difficult time being King and ended up having my head chopped off just like my grandmother. This wasn’t because of a cousin – it was because of Oliver Cromwell.

My name was also Mary and I was Queen of England, once I had got rid of my cousin’s daughter. I was a Catholic.

My husband was King of Spain but we had no children to carry on the Catholic line in England and England went back to being protestant after I died.

I was Mary’s grandfather. I had the same name as my grandfather and my grandson.

My wife’s name was Margaret and when we got married it was supposed to bring England and Scotland closer.
My name was also Mary. 
I was Mary’s Great-Aunt. 

I married a foreign king who died just after I was crowned as his Queen. 
My second husband was English and our granddaughter was Queen for 9 days - she was never crowned.

I was Mary’s first husband. 
We grew up together in France even though she was Queen of Scotland. 
I died very soon after our wedding so she did not have long to enjoy being Queen of France.

I was Mary’s Great great grandmother. When I married my husband Henry it put an end to arguing about who had the right to be King. 
My brothers were murdered in the Tower of London. 
Four of my grandchildren were kings or queens of England or Scotland and two of my great-granddaughters were beheaded because of arguing over the English throne.

I was Mary’s great grandfather. 
I had the same name as my grandfather and my grandson. 
My wife was called Margaret. 
My son’s wife was also called Margaret - how confusing!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mary I</th>
<th>Francis II of France</th>
<th>James VI and I</th>
<th>Henry VII</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary Tudor</td>
<td>Margaret Tudor</td>
<td>James III</td>
<td>Henry VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary of Guise</td>
<td>Elizabeth of York</td>
<td>James IV</td>
<td>Edward VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles I</td>
<td>Elizabeth I</td>
<td>James V</td>
<td>Henry Stuart Lord Darnley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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