



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

# Explore and learn outside

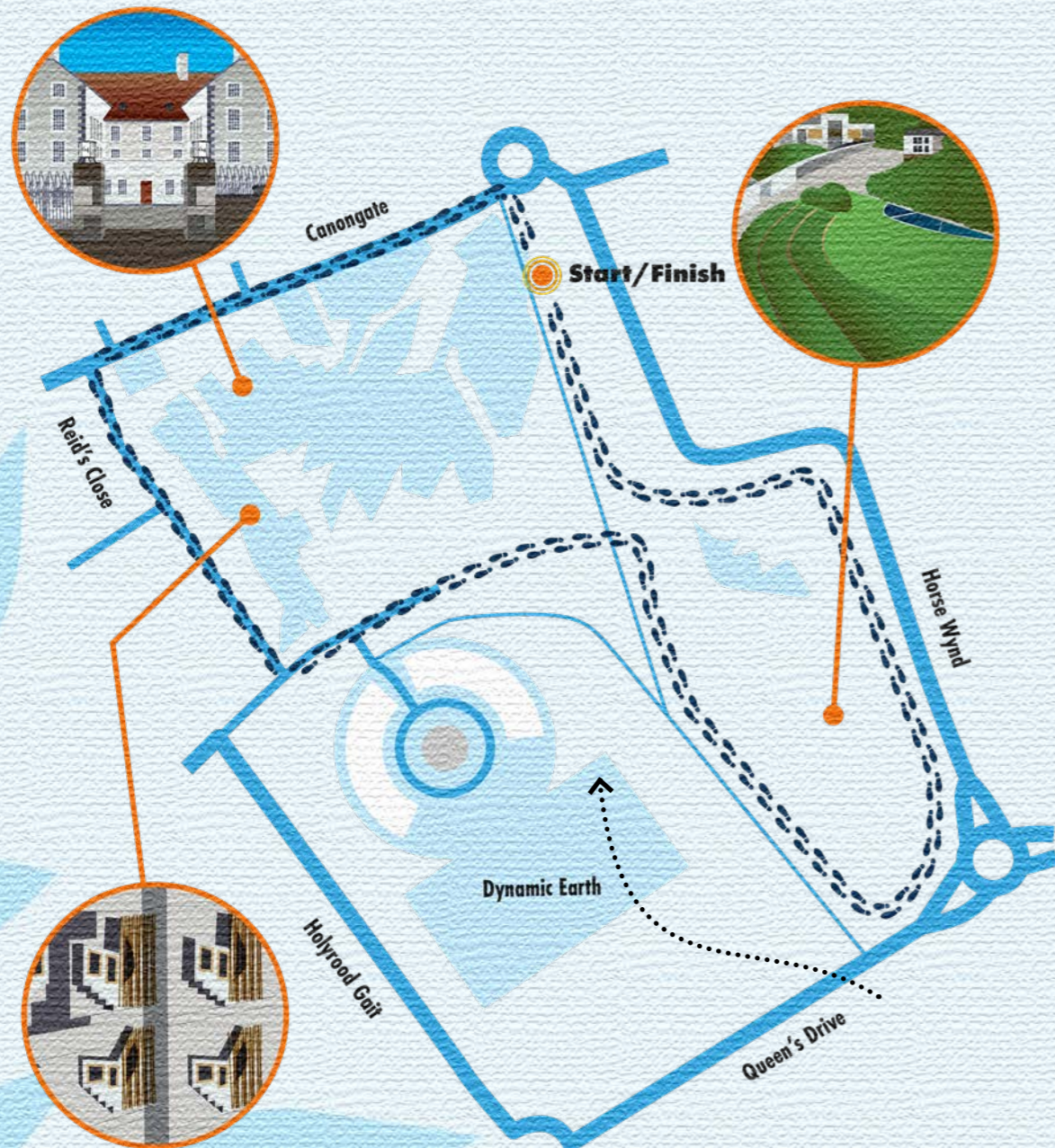
with the Scottish Parliament Family Trail

This trail booklet belongs to:



# Welcome to the Scottish Parliament.

This trail booklet will help you find your way around the outside of the Scottish Parliament building. There is a lot to discover and learn with our activities. Have fun!



## Look around

There are lots of old and new buildings, bringing together the past and the present. There is a lot of history, from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to the Scottish Parliament. Look at the land around - the large hill in the park, Arthur's Seat, and the rocky crags.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The new Scottish Parliament began in 1999 but used a different building for its meetings until it moved to Holyrood in 2004.

The new building was designed by Enric Miralles, an architect from Barcelona. He was inspired by the Scottish landscape, the sea and the history of Scotland.

### WHO

**MSP** stands for a Member of the Scottish Parliament. The people of Scotland vote in an **election** to choose MSPs for their local areas. You can **vote** in the Scottish Parliament elections from when you are 16 or older.

### WHAT

**Debates** are meetings in which the MSPs discuss subjects important to Scotland and make new **laws**.

### WHERE

The **Debating Chamber** is a specially designed meeting room for the debates. People can come and watch the MSPs from the **Public Gallery**.

# The Garden

The garden has lots of different plants, insects, animals and birds living here. Bees, moths and butterflies really like all the different plants that you see around you.

*The plants here are grown specially to make a home for these creatures. This is called an ecosystem.*

Can you find the rowan and crab apple trees, or one of the symbols of Scotland, the Thistle? Watch out for the prickles! See what other plants you can find.

## DID YOU KNOW?

There is one type of butterfly that can only be found here and nowhere else. It's called the Northern Brown Argus and this is what it looks like.

# Windows

## DID YOU KNOW?

These are used by the MSPs to sit and think about their work in the Scottish Parliament.

There are many different shapes and sizes of windows around here. Some of these windows are very old. And some are new like the windows in the MSPs' offices; these windows have a special seat on the inside, like this.



Draw what you would like to look at from your window.



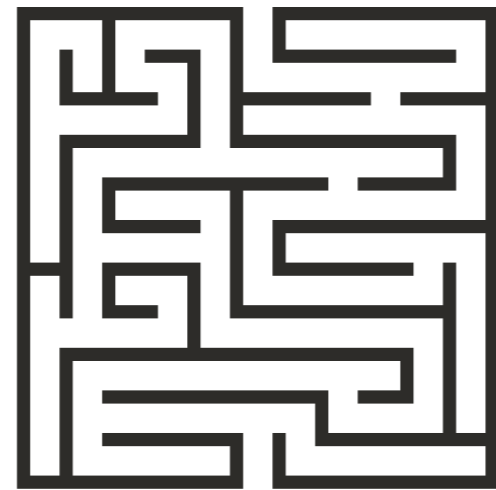
# Queensberry House

This is the oldest part of the Scottish Parliament. It was built around the year 1670. It has been used as a very grand home, a hospital and offices. The Presiding Officer has their office here.

Many years ago, a cat called Whisky lived here. Whisky loved to explore the streets around the Parliament and sit in the sun in the garden.



Can Whisky find a way home?



Finish

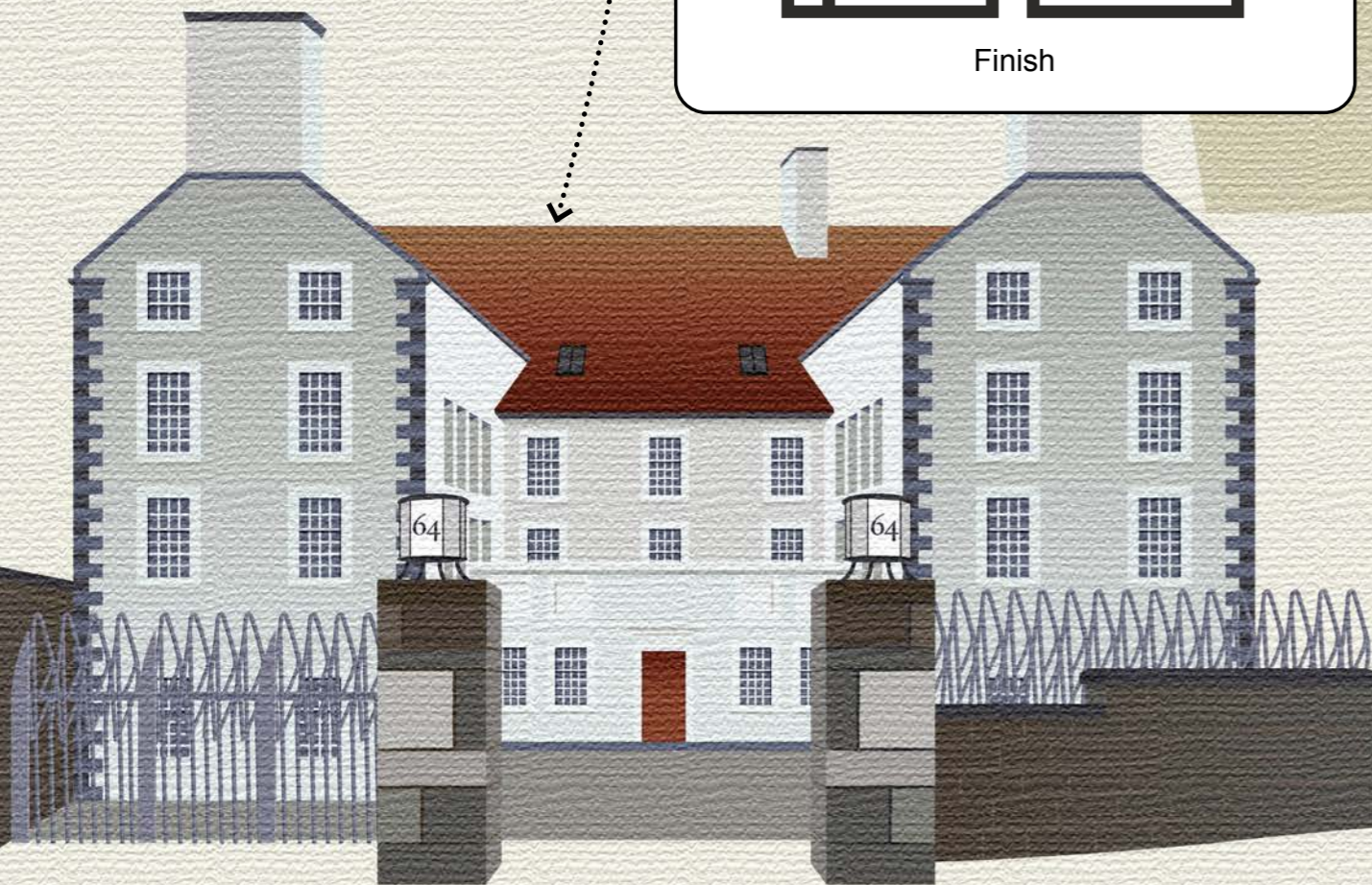
# Canongate Wall

The wall has many different types of stone and rock from around Scotland.

On some of the stones are words from stories and poems that mean a great deal to people in Scotland. Can you spot any text written in Gaelic?

Write a sentence about what you hope for Scotland's future.

WORK  
AS IF  
YOU LIVE  
IN THE  
EARLY DAYS  
OF A  
BETTER  
NATION  
GLASDAIR GRAY



# Your Parliament

Now that you have looked around the outside of the Scottish Parliament Building, why not have a go at designing your own!



Design your own Parliament building here.

# Parliament words

W	O	L	A	W	S	H	S	V	P
T	T	S	E	P	C	F	W	U	A
C	E	D	Q	T	O	C	E	M	R
J	L	E	Q	T	T	A	A	S	L
U	E	B	V	V	L	G	J	P	I
G	C	A	L	O	A	A	Q	T	A
D	T	T	B	T	N	E	B	X	M
J	I	E	K	E	D	L	Y	F	E
T	O	N	O	Q	Y	I	I	O	N
A	N	M	P	G	R	C	C	X	T

SCOTLAND LAWS VOTE MSP PARLIAMENT  
DEBATE ELECTION GAELIC

See if you can find some of the words you have come across.



Thank you for exploring the  
Scottish Parliament! We hope  
you enjoyed visiting.

Please keep up with  
what's happening at the  
Scottish Parliament at  
[www.visitparliament.scot](http://www.visitparliament.scot)

