

Activity 1

William Wallace

Little is known about the life of William Wallace, including his date of birth. What little we do know about him appears in chronicles written long after his death.

Walter Bower was abbot of Inchcolm Abbey, on Inchcolm Island in the Firth of Forth. During the 1440s, he wrote a history of Scotland in Latin from the earliest times to about 1437. In his account of events during the Wars of Independence, he wrote this description of William Wallace



Courtesy of the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum

1297

He was a tall man with the body of a giant, cheerful in appearance with agreeable features, broad-shouldered and big-boned, with belly in proportion and lengthy flanks, pleasing in appearance but with a wild look, broad in the hips, with strong arms and legs, a most spirited fighting-man with all his limbs very strong and firm.

Scotichronicon, Walter Bower
Vol. XI, Chapter 28, p.83

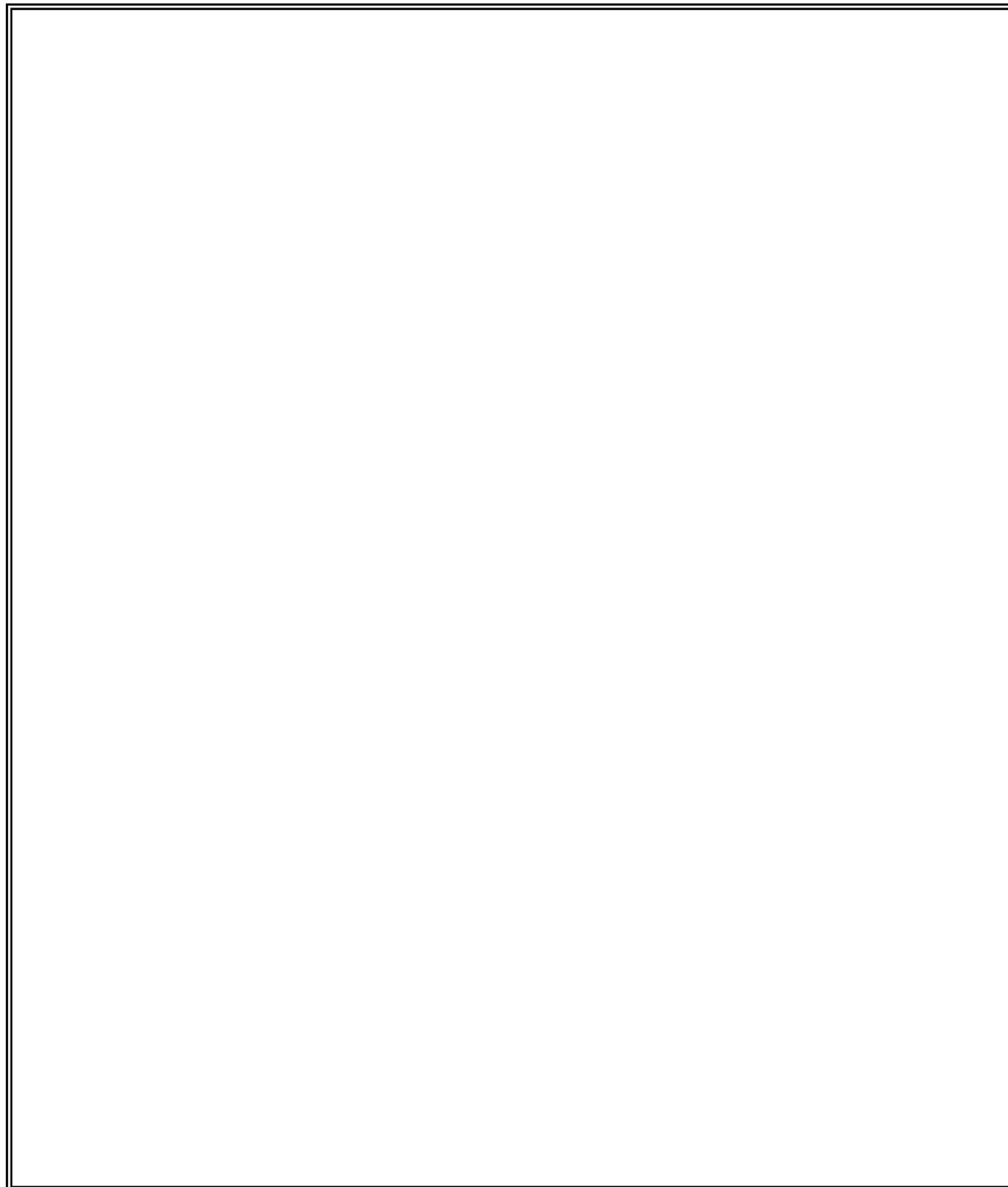
Activities

Read Bower's description of William Wallace.

- **Draw** a picture of Wallace based on Bower's description.
- Fact or fiction. **Discuss** the reliability of this source. Do you think it is useful?
- King Edward I of England ordered his capture, dead or alive, for crimes of murder and treason. **Design** a wanted poster for Wallace.

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William Wallace



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A black and white illustration of a scroll with the word "Wanted" written in a cursive font. The scroll is unrolled, showing its texture and the way it is tied at the top. The background is a dark, textured grey.

Wanted

by order of the King

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