

## Activity 8

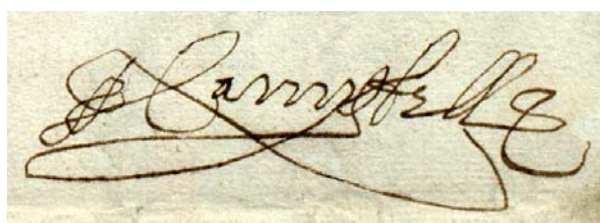
### Create your own elaborate signature

The custom of placing a signature on a document did not start in Scotland until the 15th century. Before this, the accepted method of authenticating a document was to attach a copy of your own seal to it as did kings, clerics and the nobility.

The use of signatures on documents was copied from Europe under the influence of Mary, Queen of Scots and the French court. As more people learned to read and write, the use of signatures developed.



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In 1540, an act of parliament decreed that legal documents must be signed as well as sealed. Over time, signatures alone became the accepted way of authenticating many legal documents.

### Activity

**Study** the images of the various signatures. Use these for ideas to **create** your own unique signature. Practice writing your name in an elaborate way. Make it large and interesting but most important of all, make it difficult for anyone else to copy or forge.

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