

Kat an Doug on Planet X... Teachers' Notes



The Itchy Coo [Planet books](#)

- reinforce everyday, core Scots vocabulary
- introduce simple Scots grammar ([canna](#), [winna](#) etc)
- introduce more advanced Scots vocabulary by including many synonyms of the 'planet word' (eg [Fankle](#), [Perjink](#))
- encourage word-building, mixing Scots and 'scifi' words, eg [cyberdug](#), [astrostravaiger](#)

The [Planet books](#) can be used in a number of ways to support learning about the Scots language, or language use in general. Here are some ideas for working with the Planet books with your class.

Ask your class, or each pupil, to invent a new [Scots planet](#).

- Make up names for:
 - its inhabitants (eg [Fankelites](#), [Perjinkians](#))
 - its capital city (eg [Muckle Boorach](#), [Fantooshopolis](#))
 - a mountain range, sea or loch (eg [Guddle Glen](#), [Ben Stoorie](#), [Loch Swankie](#))
 - its moon(s) (eg [Heeliegoleerie](#))
 - a sport played there (eg [asterbaw](#))
 - a food eaten there (eg [raiveletti](#), [snodcakes](#))
- Draw either your planet, or one of its inhabitants, or foods
- Ask pupils to send each other postcards or email messages from their planet, or from one of the planets in the Itchy Coo series
- What kind of planet do you think Doug comes from? Describe or draw Doug's home planet, his parents and/or his friends.



Language Skills

The Kat an Doug Planet books can also be used as a starting point for exploring general language issues, such as [word-building](#), [synonyms](#), [placenames](#) and [personal names](#). For example:

- Start with an English word, eg [rollerblades](#), and substitute part with a Scots word, eg [wheechblades](#), [skiteblades](#) – or even [shoogleblades](#)! Ask children to describe and/or draw these inventions.



- Talk about the placenames in the Planet books, eg [Guddle Glen](#), [Tapsalteerie Toun](#), [Fantooshopolis](#), [Loch Swankie](#). Why do you think the places have these names? Do you know any placenames in Scotland or elsewhere that have similar parts in their names (eg [glen](#), [toun](#), [loch](#), [-opolis](#)). Here are some more Scots placename and streetname elements. Which of these are found in your local area?



[bow](#) = arched bridge
[brae](#) = hill or slope
[brig](#) = bridge
[close](#) = alley, passageway
[entry](#) = alley, passageway
[gate](#) = walk
[glebe](#) = minister's land
[links](#) = seaside grassland
[loan](#) = cattle-track
[haugh](#) = land beside a river
[pend](#) = (usually arched) passageway
[port](#) = gate
[vennel](#) = alley, lane
[wynd](#) = alley, lane

- Talk about the personal names in the Planet books, eg [Snorl](#), [Mixter an Maxter](#), [Cloot](#), [Reddina](#), [Sproosh](#). How does each person's name relate to their personality, appearance, or job? Can you think of other personal names that tell you something about a person or their family history? Here are some Scots examples (from Earth this time!). But you can also discuss personal names from other languages and cultures:



(from occupations):

Baxter = Baker	Ferrier = Blacksmith	Brewster = Brewer
Dempster = Judge	Lister = Dyer	Lorimer = Harness-maker
Napier = Draper	Sangster = Singer	Sillars = Silversmith
Soutar = Shoemaker	Stoddart = Herdsman	

(from places):

[Fleming](#) from Flanders [Inglis](#) English [Norrie](#) from Norway

(from physical features, NB many of these come from Gaelic):

Bain = fair (hair) [Gaelic]	Begg = small [Gaelic]
Duff = black (hair) [Gaelic]	Dunn = brown (hair) [Gaelic]
Garvie = rough, brawny [Gaelic]	Ogg = young [Gaelic]
Reid = red (hair or complexion)	Strang = strong

Class projects

- Make [Doug's Scrapbuik](#) with your class, with each child or group doing a page for a different planet. Make the scrapbuik entries (all written in Scots, of course) as full and varied as you can, including pictures.
- Make [Doug's wormhole map](#) with your class. Include the planets you have read about, and any new planets your class have made up.
- Create a [travel brochure](#) advertising tours of various Scots planets. Describe the tourist attractions on each planet, and try to make destinations like Planet Drookit sound appealing to potential visitors!
- Make a [model](#) of Planet Fankle, or your own Scots planet, using clay or papier mâché. You can photograph your models for [Doug's Scrapbuik](#) (be sure to put them on a dark background to look like outer space).



Website Ideas

You will find further resources for working with the Kat an Doug books on the Itchy Coo website at www.itchy-coo.com. These include recipes from [Doug's Interplanetary Cookbuik](#), and pictures from the Planet series to print out and colour in.

Send us Planet pictures, stories or poems your class have made for our web gallery (Itchy Cool Ideas) at www.itchy-coo.com.