

The battle

The only place where it was safe to cross the river was a small wooden bridge, only wide enough to allow two mounted soldiers to cross at a time.

Wallace, Moray and their army watched from a nearby hill as the English set up camp.



The Scots were outnumbered, particularly when it came to cavalry, and it seemed like it would be another English victory.

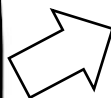
The English were arrogantly confident of success and had a low regard for the Scottish troops based on their recent experience at Dunbar.



The English commander, the Earl of Surrey, ordered his men to cross the bridge the following morning, which they began to do at first light. Unfortunately, Surrey had overslept! When he finally arrived at the battlefield he recalled his men.



After giving the Scots the chance to surrender, Surrey ordered his cavalry to begin crossing the river again and to wait in the bend in the river on the other side.



Story of Stirling Bridge.

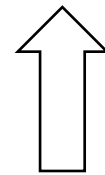
Using the information on this sheet / powerpoint on our website, create a detailed newspaper front cover describing the events of the battle.

If you were interviewing soldiers, what might they say?

Will your newspaper be balanced or biased to one side?



The battle only lasted an hour but with devastating English losses: 100 knights and 5000 men. The horses were useless in such a tight space. To try to limit the damage and protect his remaining men, Surrey destroyed the bridge. The defeat was crushing and humiliating.



The Scots just watched before taking action at the right moment. They charged down the hill and blocked the English cavalry's escape back across the bridge, and trapped those who had crossed into a small area in the bend of the river. They attacked the trapped men, cutting many of them down and forcing others into the deep water where many drowned. Some managed to escape by swimming despite their armour.

