Elgin Cathedral Spotter Sculptures and symbols

Elgin Cathedral and its graveyard are full of sculpture and symbols. Tick off the ones you find, then add up your score.

Ask the steward if you need any help.

Tallest grave

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Points: 10

This gravestone for the Anderson family could be the tallest in Scotland. It is five metres high.

Oldest grave



Points: 10

We think this grave is the oldest here. At the man's feet is a lion which has lost its head. The lion is guarding the tomb.

Pictish stone



Points: 15

This Pictish stone probably dates from the 800s. It was found in the centre of Elgin and then moved here.



Points: 20

Medieval tombs would have been decorated and brightly painted. This outline of an angel survives on the tomb of Bishop John Winchester.

Heart symbol



Points: 40

A heart on gravestones is often a symbol of the soul and a belief in life after death.

Glove maker



Points: 20

Grave symbols often show what the person did for a living. A glove and a pair of scissors mean the person was a 'glover' (a glove maker).

Bishop Archibald





We think this carving is of Bishop Archibald. He was bishop of Moray in the 1200s and was buried in the cathedral.

Royal shield

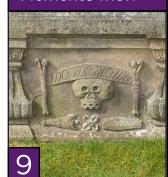
Points: 15



This shield is the royal coat of arms of Scotland, the symbol of the kings and queens.

Memento mori

Points: 20



'Memento mori' is Latin for 'Remember you must die'. It reminded people that life is short and to live a good life.

Consecration cross

Points: 15



When a church is built it needs to be consecrated (made sacred). 12 crosses were placed inside the church as part of this process.

A portrait

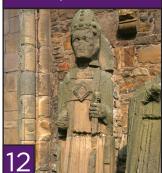
Points: 10



Points: 10



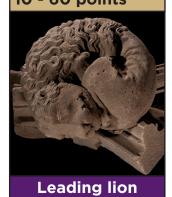
Some graves have a picture of the dead person. This portrait is of the Duchess of Gordon.



This statue of a bishop used to be on the cathedral's central tower.
Can you find where he is now?

Add up what you have spotted and get your score:

10 - 60 points





121 - 160 points

Top dog



Meed a clue? Look here...]. On the outside of the Cathedral 2. In a space with a roof (the Gordon aisle) 3. In the middle of the Cathedral 4. In a space with a roof, look closely at the tombs! 5. Last row of graves behind the Cathedral 6. Wall on the South side of the graveyard 7. Carved stones exhibition 8. Chapter house 9. Graves behind the Cathedral 9. Of the Gordon aisle) 12. In the middle of the Cathedral 9. Of the Gordon aisle) 12. In the middle of the Cathedral 13. In a space with a roof (the Gordon aisle) 12. In the middle of the Cathedral 13. In a space with a roof (the Gordon aisle) 12. In the middle of the Cathedral 13. In a space with a roof (the Gordon aisle) 14. In the middle of the Cathedral 15. In a space with a roof (the Gordon aisle) 15. In the middle of the Cathedral 16.