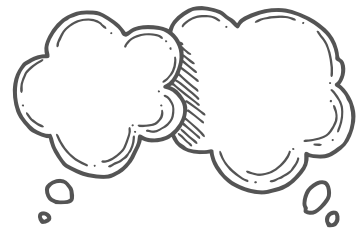# ON REFLECTION

Memorialising… the victims of the Highland Clearances

Whilst there may have been clear economic benefits of the Clearances for the land owners, it is now accepted that great cruelty took place at times.

Hundreds of families experienced great hardship as a result of being cleared from their homes and it is now known that some lives were lost as a direct result.

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1 EXPLORE

It can sometimes be hard to learn about the lives of the families that were cleared. Only a few of their objects survive too.

Explore this Niddy Noddy on the site from Strathnaver Museum – designed for winding wool or yarn.

- Why do you think so few objects survive from the families who were cleared?
- Why do you think a family would have made an effort to take an object like this niddy noddy with them?

2 TRY IT YOURSELF

Choose 3 objects that you would try to save if you were forced from your home quickly.

But you can only pick 3!

3 READ

Read the story of Angus Mackay to discover a young child's experience of being cleared!

4 TALK ABOUT IT

Margaret Mackay was nearly a hundred years old when her family was cleared from the Sutherland estate. According to an eye witness, the men tasked with removing the family were told that Margaret was too ill to be moved. Patrick Sellar, the man in charge, was reported to have said: "Damn her, old witch, she has lived too long. Let her burn."

According to one source, the house was immediately set on fire. Margaret was rescued but the blanket she was carried in was in flames. She was placed to rest in a shed and died some days later.
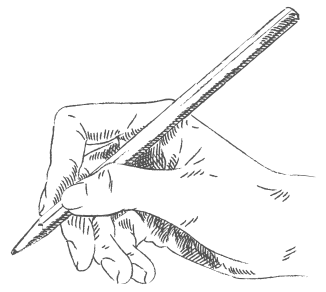
- In dangerous situations, it is normally the very old and the very young who are protected. Why do you think this is?
- Do you think this story is more shocking because it happened to a very elderly lady?

5

CREATE A COMMEMORATION

Use this page to plan your ideas.

Who do you want to commemorate?

Why do you want to remember what happened to them?

What could your design look like? What shapes or pictures could you include?

What message could you write?