# Using the Statistical Accounts in Eaglesham Primary School - Planning

Video transcript

**Lesley Anderson, principal teacher:** Today we’ve been looking at experiences and outcomes and identifying which experiences and outcomes could be used to help inform a series of lessons about Eaglesham and its local area. We’ve been looking at a variety of resources which we could use, such as Digimaps and the Statistical Accounts of Scotland, so that we can use that to help the children resource their learning. It’s a good primary resource for the children to use and it should really motivate the learners to learn about their local history.

**Helen Alton, Statistical Accounts of Scotland (EDINA):** Statistical Accounts of Scotland were the brainchild of Sir John Sinclair who was the MP for Thurso. So, in 1791 he decided that he wanted to measure the quantum of happiness of the Scottish people, so he wrote to 900-plus parish ministers and sent them a questionnaire of over 160 questions. The contents are really fascinating because Sir John’s questions covered agriculture, antiquities, the weather, historical monuments, information about the people, what they did, what they were paid, what their rent was, the children in the parish, what the schools were like, the roads were like... So it’s a true picture, or a snapshot in a way, of life in the 1790s.

**Lesley Anderson, principal teacher:** I think the Statistical Accounts of Scotland is a really good resource to use in schools, mainly because the children don’t get a lot of opportunities to use primary sources of information. So, it’s given them a really good reason to use them. Also because it’s specific to the area that they live in, so every school will be able to access information that’s specific to them, and which has a real relevance for the children who are using the Accounts.