Become a king or queen for the day and make and decorate a lion headband!

Lions are an important symbol for royalty, representing strength and bravery. The lion was used to represent the Scottish king from the time of William I (1165 – 1214).

King James II kept a real lioness in Edinburgh in 1452-3. There are records of rent paid for a ‘lioness house’ and wages for her keeper, Tullybelton.

A wax seal found at Melrose Abbey.  
A James VI coin 1588 found at Tantallon Castle.

Top tips for making your headband:

1. Print or copy out the template on the next page.
2. Colour in the lion, decorate with anything you like, and cut it out.
3. To make your headband, you can either
   - pierce holes at either side and thread through elastic cord,
   - tape the shape to a hairband, or
   - tape together paper strips to make a headband that fits your head and glue the lion shape onto the band.

A lion on the ceiling of Dunblane Cathedral.  
A stone lion on the ceiling of Edinburgh Castle’s Great Hall.