The Young James Clerk Maxwell: Scotland 1831-1850

- Born at 14 India Street, Edinburgh, now the home of the James Clerk Maxwell Foundation
- Only child
- Father a lawyer of independent spirit and means, with an interest in the latest science of the day

Maxwell spent much of his early years on the family estate of Glenlair in Kirkcudbrightshire
- He enjoyed messing around in the countryside and making youthful 'experiments'
- He was always asking questions like "What's the go o' that?"
- The family house burnt down in 1929 but a restoration programme is being organised by The Maxwell at Glenlair Trust

At the age of 10 Maxwell was sent to the then quite new school of Edinburgh Academy where he met other gifted children
- Over the years he rose to equal or exceed them
- He was good at the classics and English literature as well as maths and science
- Had his first 'scientific' (mathematical) paper accepted by the Royal Society of Edinburgh when aged 15

1847-1850 Maxwell attended Edinburgh University where he studied Philosophy, Maths, Physics, Logic and Metaphysics for 3 years as a private student
- Read works in Greek, Latin and French for fun
- He made many home experiments

Cambridge 1850 - 1856

- Student at Cambridge University Oct. 1850 – 1854
- Enjoyed walking, bathing and sculling
- Acquired a reputation for brilliant and independent thought
- Graduated in 1854 as 2nd Wrangler and Smith's Prizeman
- 1854 – 1856 Scholar and Fellow of Trinity College