

Destination – Scotland**Worksheet A – Scotland Quiz**

Test your knowledge of Scotland with this quiz.

1) What's the capital city of Scotland?

- a) Glasgow
- b) Aberdeen
- c) Edinburgh

2) Scotland used to be an independent state. When did it lose its independence and become part of Great Britain?

- a) 1507
- b) 1707
- c) 1907

3) What colour is the Scottish flag?

- a) Blue with a white cross
- b) White with a blue cross
- c) Green with a white cross

4) What's the name of the famous lake where a monster is said to live?

- a) Loch Monstro
- b) Loch Grass
- c) Loch Ness

5) What's the name of the type of skirt that Scottish men sometimes wear?

- a) Kilt
- b) Scot skirt
- c) Skilt

6) What's the national drink of Scotland?

- a) Vodka
- b) Gin
- c) Whisky

7) What's the name of the musical wind instrument that is from Scotland?

- a) Wind pipes
- b) Bag pipes
- c) Scottish sax

8) When did Scotland get its own Parliament?

- a) 1899
- b) 1959
- c) 1999

9) How many languages are spoken in Scotland?

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3

10) What's the name of Scotland's national poet?

- a) Robert Burns
- b) Robert Louis Stevenson
- c) Walter Scot

- Check the answers with your teacher. How many did you get right?
- You could make a similar quiz about your own country to test your teacher!

Worksheet B – Get to grips with Gaelic!

Did you know that English isn't the only language spoken in Scotland? 86,000 people who live in the north of Scotland and on the Western Isles speak Scottish Gaelic. The word for Scotland in Gaelic is Alba. Have a look at the days of the week and the numbers one to ten and then discuss the questions below.

Days of the week	Numbers one to ten
Diluain – Monday	Aon – one
Dimàirt – Tuesday	Dhà – two
Diciadain – Wednesday	Tri – three
Diardaoin – Thursday	Ceithir – four
Dihaoine – Friday	Còig – five
Disathairne – Saturday	Sia – six
Didòmhnaich – Sunday	Seachd – seven
	Ochd – eight
	Naoi – nine
	Deich – ten

Now discuss with your group:

- Do you think Scottish Gaelic would be easy to learn?
- Some people think that by the end of the century 90% of the world's 6000 languages will be extinct and there will only be ten languages spoken in the world. Do you think this may happen?
- Do you think it's important to keep minority languages alive? Why / why not?
- How can we try to keep minority languages alive?
- Do you think your native language will ever die?
- Do you think that the growth of 'English as an international language' is helping to kill other languages?
- Do you think the world of technology is helping to kill languages?

SCOTLAND LISTENING EXERCISE

TRUE / FALSE QUESTIONS

1. The speaker was born in Scotland

True / False

2. The speaker no longer lives in Scotland

True / False

3. The speaker is an archeologist

True / False

4. The speaker believes that history and mythology are the same thing

True / False

5. The speaker believes that how we think about the past shapes our view of today

True / False

6. The speaker believes that the real history of Scotland is not as thrilling as the legends and myths

True / False

7. The speaker believes that the birth of Scotland was inevitable

True / False

8. Scotland was invaded repeatedly

True / False

Scottish Highlands: Take the long way round

BALADE EN HAUTES TERRES. De Glasgow à Edimbourg, Mark C O'Flaherty nous emmène à la découverte de somptueux paysages et de la riche culture écossaise. Châteaux médiévaux, jardins idylliques, gastronomie et bons whiskys, faites le tour des Highlands en profitant des bonnes adresses et des astuces de ce journaliste spécialisé dans les voyages !

THE INDEPENDENT

BY MARK C O'FLAHERTY

Scottish Highlands: Take the long way round
Les Highlands : faites le grand tour

proud fier, altier / Callanish site mégalithique sur l'île de Lewis en Ecosse / magnetic attirant / to bleach décolorer / frippery frôles / Outer Hebrides Hébrides Extérieures (archipel à l'est de l'Ecosse) / bespoke sur commande, sur mesure / new-wave moderne / suit costume / wallpaper papier peint / bold audacieux / edgy ici anticonformiste / sharp of wit plein d'humour.

2. tartan tissu écossais aux couleurs d'un clan (famille) / clockwise dans le sens des aiguilles d'une montre / handsome élégant, raffiné / row rangée / Edwardian de la Belle Époque (du règne d'Edouard VII) / townhouse hôtel particulier, grande maison bourgeoise / wood panelling lambris / stained glass vitraux / claw-footed à pied de lion (claw griffe) / Victorian de l'époque victorienne, du XIXème / tub baignoire / ravishing ravissant / twist ici motif / paradigm exemple, modèle / mod chic, élégant.

3. swank élégant, chic / haul voyage, trajet.

4. stately majestueux, imposant / alien-beautiful d'une beauté irréaliste, hors du commun (alien extra-terrestre) / back yard jardin (derrière la maison), ici environs proches / coastline côte, littoral / scenery paysage, panorama /

There is a proud, introspective look and sound to modern Scotland. Young musicians are reinventing folk for a new generation that finds the stones of Callanish more magnetic than bleached pop frippery. The Harris Tweed Artisans Co-Operative formed a year ago in the Outer Hebrides to bring attention to new styles in a classic textile, selling wares at Flowers by Violet in Stornoway. In Edinburgh, Howie Nicholsby can make you a bespoke new-wave kilt suit in some unique varieties of it at his 21st Century Kilts atelier. And the textiles and wallpapers of Glasgow's Timorous Beasties are bold, edgy, sharp of wit... and totally Scottish.

Take the tour

2. There's still tartan, of course. If you're starting a clockwise tour of the Highlands, stay at the Hotel du Vin in Glasgow, one of the most handsome urban hotels in the country. Converted out of a row of Edwardian townhouses - all wood panelling and stained glass - it is now resplendent with claw-footed Victorian tubs and ravishing, gothic, black on black tartan twists; it's a paradigm of mod Scot style - something old; something radically new.

3. You must, of course, take the West Highland Line out of town from Queen Street

when you go. There's nothing swank about the service on the five and-a-quarter-hour haul via Fort William to the ferry port at Mallaig, but the view's the thing - including the inevitable "Oooh! Harry Potter bridge" moment at the crossing of the Glenfinnan Viaduct.

Elysian fields

4. If Kent is the garden of England, the Highlands are the stately, almost alien-beautiful Elysian Fields in Glasgow's back yard - and the coastline along Mallaig, facing the Isle of Skye, has some of the best scenery in

Visiting there

* 21st Century Kilts, 48 Thistle Street, Edinburgh (21stcenturykilts.com).

* Deryck Walker's Micro, 1 Argyle Arcade, Glasgow (deryckwalker.net).

* Judith Glue, 15 Bridge Street, Inverness (judithglue.com).

* Timorous Beasties, 384 Great Western Road, Glasgow (timorousbeasties.com).

* Flowers by Violet, 40 Point St, Stornoway. More information

* visitscotland.com



▲ A fisherman casts his line in Loch Tay at Kenmore in Scotland, on the opening day of the salmon season. (REUTERS/JEFF MITCHELL)

the world. Swap the rails for a hire car and drive inland to the bay town of Plockton and from there on to Applecross. It might take longer than you'd anticipated, allowing for camera breaks and strolls into infinity curves of green.

5. The alternative destination from Mallaig is a ferry across to Skye – venue for some of the best modern dining in the country. There are always, wherever you go, some guarantees of modern culinary wonderment.

Paying Nessie a visit

6. Even a modern tour of Scotland demands a trip to that Loch. The Clansman Hotel is an unreconstructed tartan monstrosity with a vast fibre-glass Nessie outside and a two-storey sign that advertises itself as “the ONLY hotel on Loch Ness”. Just behind the sign is Loch Ness Lodge (another “restaurant with rooms”, so the Clansman isn't exactly fibbing), where you'll be better off staying. Again, it feels like a private home, albeit one furnished by a very skilled interior designer who has taken their cues from thistles and tweed and done something jewel-bright with it. And the food is divine.

Inverness and Pitlochry

7. Next stop: Inverness, a largely unlovely city with a nefarious one-way system and a superb modern design shop for Harris Tweed oddities in the form of Judith Glue. You'd do well to dine downstairs in the former and stay put in the latter for the evening, then get the early train to Pitlochry.

8. Ah, Pitlochry. It's hard to imagine a more twee tourist town. And yet there's a lot to like. Craigatin House is a very cute, urban-minded B&B that's taken one of the Lottery-win Victorian properties that clutter the place and turned it into a thrifty but contemporary and comfy bolt-hole. A 20-minute walk from the Craigatin, on the edge of a desolate wood, you come to a glowing glass arts centre and the Port-na-Craig restaurant. Port-na-Craig is an accomplished mix of contemporary and quaint – and the Stornoway black pudding and cheddar salad is a must, as is the haggis with mashed tatties.

Edinburgh

9. Any clockwise tour of modern Scotland must end in Edinburgh, the most des res city in the nation. Two openings last year sealed the deal: super-chef Paul Kitching abandoned his beloved Manchester and set up 21212 here, with some dubious Space: 1999 signage mixed with otherwise ravishing décor and some stellar dishes (and bedrooms) in a dream of a building on the Royal Terrace.

10. And the other, of course, is the Missoni Hotel. The locals complain about its unpalatable exterior, but it's now the lunch destination du jour. The hotel is the work of Glasgow's Graven Images, one of the hottest design companies in Europe right now. In putting their stamp on the most fashion-conscious new hotel in the world, they've underscored how Scottish style is world class and as vibrant and as seductive as the landscape it comes from. ●

to swap échanger / rail chemins de fer / hire car voiture de location / inland à l'intérieur des terres / to anticipate (s')attendre (à) / stroll promenade / curve courbe.

5. venue lieu, endroit / wonderment émerveillement.

6. Nessie surnom affectueux du monstre du Loch Ness / to demand exiger, réclamer, nécessiter / unreconstructed à l'ancienne, dépassé / storey étage / sign panneau, pancarte / to advertise oneself as se vanter d'être / to fib raconter des bobards / where... staying où vous serez beaucoup mieux / albeit quoique / to furnish meubler / to take, took, taken a cue from prendre exemple sur, s'inspirer de / thistle chardon (emblème de l'Écosse) / jewel-bright éblouissant (jewel bijou, joyau).

7. unlovely laid / nefarious scélérat, infâme, diabolique / one-way (en) sens unique / oddity curiosité / downstairs en bas, à l'étage en-dessous / to stay put rester sur place, ne pas bouger / former/latter premier/deuxième.

8. twee mièvre, cucul / cute joli, mignon / urban-minded avec un côté citadin / to clutter encombrer / thrifty économe, ici sobre / comfy confortable / bolt-hole refuge / edge lisière / desolate désolé, sombre / glowing resplendissant / quaint vieillot, (au charme) suranné / black pudding boudin noir / haggis panse de brebis farcie / mashed tatties purée de pommes de terre (tattie fam écoss. patate).

9. des res = desirable résidence belle demeure / to seal the deal sceller le contrat, ici confirmer (définitivement) / beloved chéri / to set, set, set up créer, installer / dubious douteux / Space: 1999 série télévisée britannique de science-fiction diffusée dans les années 70 / signage signalisation / stellar éblouissant.

10. unpalatable déplaisant, ici moche / hot en vogue, très coté / stamp marque, empreinte / to underscore souligner / world class parmi les meilleurs du monde, de réputation internationale / vibrant éclatant.

SCOTLAND

TRUE /FALSE QUESTIONS

Read the article, "Scottish Highlands: Take the long way round" and answer the following questions.

1. A new generation is more interested in bleached pop frippery than the stones of Callanish.

True / False

2. The Hotel du Vin in Glasgow is a paradigm of mod Scot style.

True / False

3. The West Highland Lone railway line includes scenery used in the Harry Potter films.

True / False

4. The Elysian Fields are in Glasgow

True / False

5. Skye is accessible from Mallaig by ferry

True / False

6. There is only one hotel at Loch Ness that has a large fibre glass Nessie

True / False

7. According to the author there is a lot to like in Pitlochry.

True / False

8. According to author Scottish style is world class and vibrant.

True / False

SPECIAL ECOSSE [✦]

Gift shop kilt sellers cause a flap in Scotland

GOD SAVE THE KILT. Une bataille de la plus haute importance se déroule en ce moment même dans les rues commerçantes d'Édimbourg. Comment distinguer un vrai kilt d'un faux ? Dans quelles boutiques acheter un kilt « authentique » ? Ce vêtement traditionnel, objet de fierté nationale, suscite les plus grands débats. On ne se moque pas impunément d'un symbole des Highlands aussi fort !

DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT BY ELLEN CREAGER



Gift shop kilt sellers cause a flap in Scotland

Les boutiques de souvenirs qui vendent des kilts bon marché sèment la panique en Écosse

(également to flap voleter, claquer au vent)

plaid tissu écossais / to rage faire rage / to hang, hung, hung être suspendu, accroché, ici exposé / mannequin mannequin (objet) / competitor concurrent / sign pancarte / to post plaquer, afficher.

2. on a crusade en croisade / heritage patrimoine / genuine authentique / fabric tissu / hand-stitched cousu à la main / standard critère, norme, référence / to charge accuser, alléguer / skimpy étreiqué, trop juste, chiche / material tissu / bad name mauvaise réputation / proper véritable.

3. meanwhile entre temps / to retaliate se venger, riposter / to advertise faire de la publicité pour, annoncer, afficher / a kilt is a kilt is a kilt (réf. à Rose is a rose is a rose is a rose premier vers du poème *Sacred Emily* de Gertrude Stein, 1922).

4. once upon a time autrefois / budget à bas prix / disposable jetable / Walmart chaîne de super- et hypermarchés.

EDINBURGH, Scotland — In the land of plaid, the Kilt Wars are raging. Hanging in front of Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers shop is a mannequin wearing a competitor's kilt with a sign posted on it: "THIS IS NOT A REAL KILT."

2. "I'm not on a crusade, but kilts are part of Scottish heritage and history," says Nicolson, who said his genuine kilts have 7.6 meters of fabric, are hand-stitched in Scotland and are the standard for what a Scottish kilt should be — and cost about \$700. He charges that skimpy kilts sold next door at Prestige Scotland and other gift shops in Edinburgh for about \$50 are made in Pakistan, don't have enough material to close correctly and are giving Scottish kilts a bad name. "They aren't proper kilts," he says. In fact, the only two fine kiltmakers left in Edinburgh are his shop and Geoffrey Tailor, he adds.

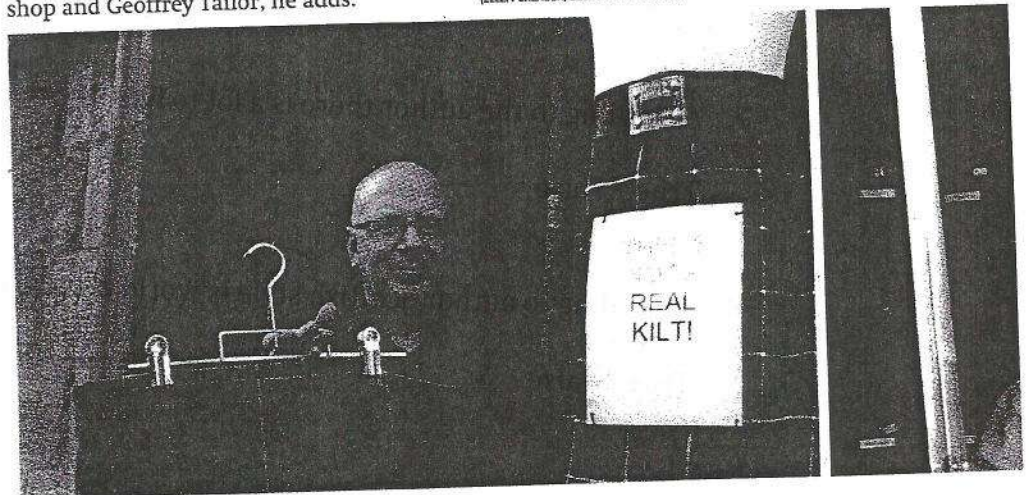
3. Meanwhile, next door at Prestige Scotland, managing director Sam Singh has retaliated. He put up his own sign on the \$50 acrylic kilts hanging in front of his store, advertising "unreal kilts at unreal prices." He says a kilt is a kilt is a kilt.

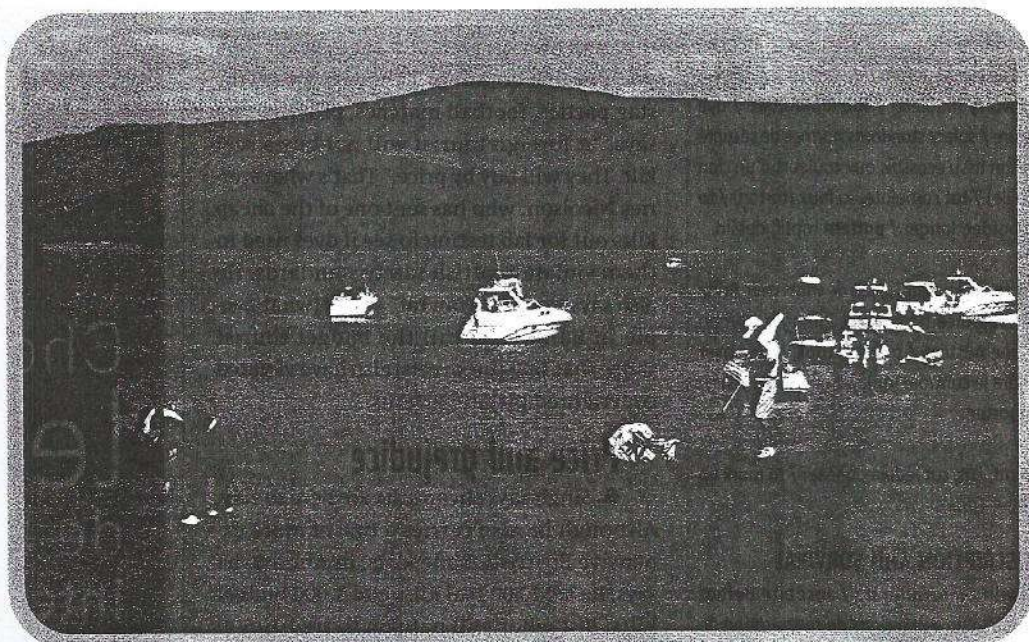
What's in a kilt?

4. "Once upon a time, kilts were only supposed to be Scottish. Now they are worn all over the world. What we are doing is a budget kilt, a disposable kilt. It's still a kilt," he says. "If you buy a pair of Armani jeans, then buy jeans at Walmart, you still call them jeans."

▼ The kilt wars pits Gordon Nicolson, of Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers, with his next-door neighbor, whom he claims is just one of many shops in Edinburgh, Scotland selling knock-off kilt for about \$50, ruining things for genuine Scottish kiltmakers.

(ELLEN CREAGER/DETROIT FREE PRESS)





Tartan

Tartan is a pattern consisting of criss-crossed horizontal and vertical bands in multiple colours. It is made with alternating bands of coloured (pre-dyed) threads woven as both warp and weft at right angles to each other. It is the symbolic national dress of Scotland. Until the middle of the nineteenth century, the Highland tartans were associated with regions or districts, rather than by any specific clan. It is generally stated that the most popular tartans today are the Black Watch (also known as *Old Campbell*, *Grant Hunting*, *Universal*, *Government*) and Royal Stewart. Today tartan is no longer limited to textiles but is used on non-woven mediums, such as paper, plastics, packaging, and wall coverings.

pattern motif / criss-crossed entrecroisé / to dye teinter / thread fil / to weave, wove, woven tisser / warp chaîne / weft trame / medium support / wall covering revêtement mural.



I'm William Wallace, and the rest of you will be spared. Go back to England and tell them... Scotland is free!

William Wallace, who led the Scottish rebellion against Edward I and inflicted a famous defeat on the English army at Stirling Bridge. He is remembered as a patriot and national hero.

to spare épargner, laisser la vie sauve à.

SCOTLAND

790 Scotland has over 790 offshore islands, most of which are to be found in four main groups: Shetland, Orkney, and the Hebrides, sub-divided into the Inner Hebrides and Outer Hebrides. There are also clusters of islands in the Firth of Clyde, Firth of Forth, and Solway Firth, and numerous small islands within the many bodies of fresh water in Scotland including Loch Lomond and Loch Maree.

offshore près de la côte (en mer) / cluster petit groupe / body of fresh water étendue d'eau douce, lac.

Celts

As one of the Celtic nations, Scotland is represented at interceltic events at home and around the world. Scotland is host to two interceltic music festivals – the Scottish Arts Council funded Celtic Connections, Glasgow, and the Hebridean Celtic Festival, Stornoway – that were founded in the mid 1990s.

to fund financer.

5. wedding mariage / stag party enterrement de vie de garçon / protest manifestation / to worry inquiéter / lab laboratoire / dye teinture / safety standards normes de sécurité / tartan tissu écossais aux couleurs d'un clan (famille) / tat camelote, ici faux (tartan) / to line border, longer / pattern motif, dessin.

6. Price and prejudice jeu de mots avec Pride and Prejudice (Orgueil et Préjugés, roman de Jane Austen) / to take, took, taken over prendre le contrôle (de), prendre le pas (sur), l'emporter.

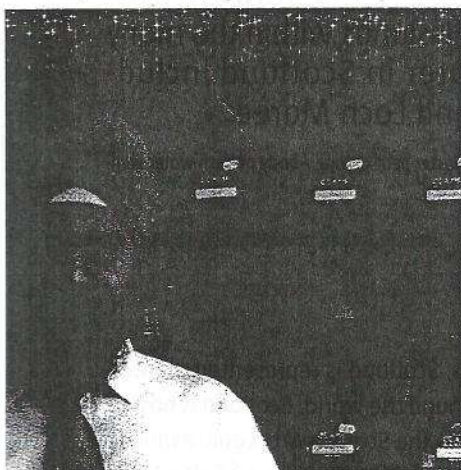
7. to cut, cut, cut réduire, boisser / to mark up majorer (prix).

PROSCRIPTION AND SURVIVAL

following à la suite de / Jacobite defeat marque la fin des espoirs de restauration de la lignée des Stuarts sur les trônes d'Écosse et d'Angleterre (Jacobites Écossais partisans de l'indépendance de l'Écosse et du retour sur le trône des Stuarts) / on regular basis régulièrement / (they) are more likely to (ils) ont plus de chances de / wedding mariage / Highland Games sorte de kermesse locale en plein air où se déroulent toutes sortes de concours (danse, cornemuse) et d'épreuves sportives (lancer de marteau, tir à la corde, etc) / gathering réunion, rassemblement.

▼ Roshan Singh, a Scottish Sikh whose family runs 25 kilt shops across Scotland.

(REUTERS/GOLNAR MOTEVALLI)



5. Singh, who like Nicolson is a Scotland native, says his kilts aren't meant to be for weddings or fine occasions. "They are meant for stag parties, football matches, protests," he says. "A foreign tourist will not buy a real kilt. They will buy by price." That's what worries Nicolson, who has sent one of the cheap kilts out for lab testing to see if dyes used in them violate Scottish safety standards. He also says some "tartan tat" stores (what people in Edinburgh call the budget tourist shops that line the streets) also have violated copyrighted tartan patterns.

Price and prejudice

6. Singh says cheap kilts are here to stay. Although he also carries a line of more expensive Scottish-made kilts, in August, he says, he sold 200 real kilts and 1,000 budget kilts. But what will happen to traditional Scottish kiltmakers if budget kilts take over?

"I'm not on a crusade, but kilts are part of Scottish heritage and history".

Gordon Nicolson

7. "What is going to happen is the ones who call themselves real kiltmakers will have to cut their prices. They mark them up 500 percent," Singh says. Nicolson, for his part, plans to keep his controversial mannequin outside. It attracts a lot of attention from tourists and should make people stop and think about the authenticity of kilts they see in Scotland, he says. ●

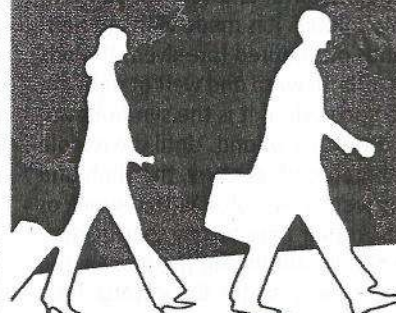
Proscription and survival

Following the Jacobite defeat at Culloden in 1746, the kilt and other aspects of Highland dress were outlawed and its continued survival during these years was largely due to its adoption by Highland regiments serving with the British army. Highland regiments still wear the kilt on regular basis, although no longer into battle, but it is not an everyday article of dress in Scotland. Visitors are more likely to see kilt-wearers at formal celebrations such as weddings and at Highland Games or similar gatherings.

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SCOTLAND MUTI-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Read the article " Gift shop kilt sellers cause a flap in Scotland"

and answer the following questions by selecting the best single response.

1. Gordon Nicholson

- a) is on a crusade to save Scotland's kilts
- b) charges \$50 a kilt
- c) sells genuine Scottish kilts

2. Scottish kilts

- a) are skimpy and don't have enough material to close correctly
- b) have 7.6 meters of fabric and are hand stitched
- c) give Scotland a bad name

3. Cheaper kilts are

- a) made in Pakistan
- b) are also sold by fine kilt maker Geoffrey Tailor
- c) are manufactured by Prestige Scotland

4. Sam Singh of Prestige Scotland

- a) only sells kilts made in Scotland
- b) buys Armani jeans at Walmart
- c) says that a kilt is a kilt is a kilt

5. Sam Singh

- a) comes from Pakistan
- b) comes from Scotland
- c) comes from India

6. Sam Singh says that his kilts

- a) are meant for everyday wear
- b) violate Scottish safety standards
- c) violate copyrighted tartan patterns

7. Sam Singh

- a) sells more expensive Scottish kilts than cheaper ones
- b) plans to keep his controversial mannequin outside
- c) says that real kilt makers will have to cut their prices

8. Kilt wearing survived in Scotland

- a) because people like going to weddings or similar gatherings
- b) because of the Highland regiments in the British Army
- c) because they are an everyday item of dress

SCOTTISH AT HEART

..... FROM SCOTLAND WITH LOVE

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Scotland Culture & Traditions



Celtic Graveyard



Bagpipe Players

Scotland culture and traditions go so far back in history that their very beginnings are literally 'lost in the mists of time'.

Some of the earliest relics of Scottish life date back as far as 8500 BC (no, that's not a typo - they really are that old!), but not too much is known about the culture of Scotland or it's traditions before the Roman invasion in 43 AD.

Even after all this time, it's this history that defines much of Scotland culture and is at the roots of its' traditions, celebrations, myths, arts, literature, national pride.... and just about everything Scottish.

Scotland Culture - *The Scottish People*

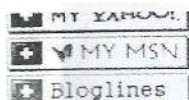
At the heart of Scottish culture is its' people, and you might find them to be as surprising as Scotlands' geography and landscape.

At first impression (especially to non-Europeans), the Scottish people may seem a bit 'reserved', but they're actually very warm-hearted, gregarious and friendly - with a very sharp, if dry, sense of humor.

The Scottish 'psyche' and attitudes has a lot of its' roots in an ancient, rich and varied history. You'll find that the Scots are independent, practical, feisty, tough and proud... but they're also sentimental, superstitious, spiritual, generous, friendly and gregarious.

Scotland has it's own Gaelic language, but it's really only spoken in some remote Highland regions and on some of the 90+ inhabited Scottish islands. 'Scottish English', on the other hand, is spoken all over Scotland and there are a whole host of regional dialects and variations.

Although this is actually English, the strong accents and dialects makes it very difficult for non-locals to understand what's being said! Check out



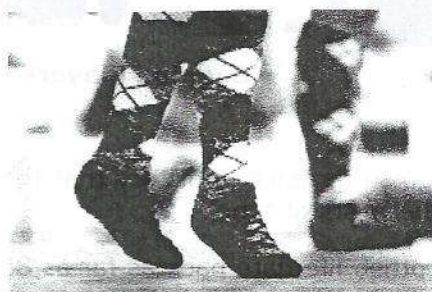
our [Scottish Sayings, Phrases & Words](#) page to get a taste of Scottish-English.

The [Clans of Scotland](#) are a big part of Scotland culture, and have an important role in Scottish history. The word 'clan' comes from the Gaelic word 'Clann' which means family or children.

Scottish clans originated in the Highlands and are a sort of 'extended family' group (taken to the extreme in terms of size and relationship). Each one originally identifies with a specific area of Scotland and an individual 'Clan Chief', and are said to be descended from one ancestor. Knowing which clan you belong to is important to most Scottish people and is a source of pride.

Although '*passionate*' may not have been one of the words I used earlier when describing the average Scottish personality, there is one thing that incites true passion in a Scot (well, in a Scotsman at least) - and that's Scottish football (or Scottish soccer for those in the US/Canada).

Scotland Culture - *Scottish Traditions & Celebrations*



Highland Dancing

The Scottish love a party, and celebrations usually involve traditional Scottish music (bagpipes and fiddles are the most popular), Celtic lyrics, and Scottish highland dancing.

The revelry is often accompanied by popular Scottish food dishes and the taste of good Scottish whisky. No wonder they're so much fun!

The usual Christian holidays such as Christmas and Easter are of course celebrated, but unlike their English neighbors, the Scottish consider New Year (or 'Hogmanay' as it's known north of the border) to be the biggest winter-time celebration.

Celtic festivals and Celtic traditions are also common, as are religious and ritualistic celebrations. St. Andrews' Day (the Patron Saint of Scotland) is another winter-time celebration and takes place on November 30th.

St. Valentines' Day is also a 'big day' in Scotland culture, even though you may not have thought of the Scots as a romantic nation! In fact, did you know that the remains of the Roman Priest known as St. Valentine are said to lie in St. Francis' Church, Glasgow, Scotland?

No matter what time of year you spend in Scotland, chances are you're going to be able to watch, or join in with, a celebration of some sort.... after all there's more than enough of them to go around :o)

Scotland Culture - *Scottish Myths & Legends*

Like all ancient cultures, Scotland has more than its' fair share of myths and legends. One of the surprises at the heart of Scottish culture is that such practical and down-to-earth people, have a strong sense of superstition and a respect for what could almost be called the 'supernatural' or 'paranormal', but which they'd most likely call 'magic'.

Many Scottish myths and legends date back to Celtic mythology and

folklore, and to the ancient Pictish culture. Many legends are centered around the rugged and imposing castles which are liberally scattered across this small country (there are around 300 castles in Scotland, that's approx. one for every 100 square miles!).

Spirits, Goblins, Elves, Fairies (aka Faeries), ghosts, monsters and mythical beasts are also a big part of Scotland's mythical realm.

Even today, many Scots people believe in something called the 'Second Sight', which is the ability to see into the future (and therefore predict future events).

Probably the best known Scottish legend is that of 'Nessie', the Loch Ness Monster. She's believed to live in the deep, cold water of Loch Ness ('loch' is the Scottish word for 'lake'), which is the biggest and deepest loch in Scotland.

The earliest sightings of Nessie go back as far as 565 AD, and there have been numerous 'sightings' since then, the most recent being in the 1970's.

Of course, there could be a hundred different explanations for the sightings, and some of the earlier photographs have turned out to be fakes, but whether you're standing on the shore, looking out over the loch from Urquhart Castle, or sitting in a boat, the atmosphere and aura of this area makes it easy to believe that the Loch Ness Monster does indeed exist. It made a believer out of me anyway!

Scotland Culture - Arts & Literature

Scotland's history is full of a variety of artistic endeavors, and Scottish art can be traced back to at least 3000 BC. Because of the tumultuous history of Scotland, there have been many influences and inspirations at work over the centuries.



Gaelic, Norse, Pictish and Celtic art forms have existed for centuries, and they're seeing a new surge in popularity. Celtic jewelery and Celtic tattoo designs are two of the most popular forms that are finding new fans on an almost daily basis.

Although you may not think of them as 'artistic', the Scottish people have a huge appreciation for a good story, poetry, music, painting (even a great joke), and many Scottish traditions/celebrations are colorful examples of this.

'The Bard of Ayrshire'

Two of the most well-known Scots in terms of literature, have to be Robert Burns (aka 'Rabbie' Burns) and Sir Walter Scott, both of whom lived and worked during the 18th Century.

Today you can see a huge range of Scottish art, and in fact international art, at the Edinburgh International Festival which is held in Scotland's capital city of Edinburgh, during August each year.

It's actually one of the largest cultural festivals anywhere in the world, and showcases a wide variety of art forms from around the world. It's a spectacle that is most definitely worth seeing... but prepare to be exhausted afterwards!

And we mustn't forget the importance of traditional Scottish music and instruments in Scotland culture. The bagpipes and the fiddle are the most popular instruments and are responsible for the unique and stirring sounds that reach right into the soul of every Scot.

Scotland Culture - *Traditional Scottish Food*

When it comes to eating, the Scots know how to do it, but their traditional diet often features dishes that aren't for the faint-hearted, vegans or those who are trying to lose weight!

A 'Full Scottish Breakfast' might include fried eggs, bacon, Scottish sausage (patties), black-pudding (blood sausage), baked beans, grilled tomatoes and deep-fried bread. All washed down with a cup of hot, sweet tea. It's delicious, but if you value your health I'd recommend not eating this on a daily (or even weekly) basis.

Of course, there are plenty of healthier alternatives and Scottish Porridge followed by smoked fish such as kippers or haddock is a good start to any day.

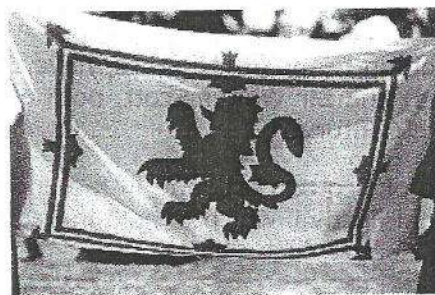
Because of the abundance of lochs, rivers and streams (not to mention the always-nearby ocean), fish and seafood are often served - lobster, crab, oysters, mussels, herring, trout, salmon the list goes on and on. My personal favorite would be smoked Scottish salmon, it's not to be missed!

And don't forget the meat. Aberdeen-Angus beef is known world-wide for its' quality, and this is its' home! Wild game such as venison, grouse and pheasant are also often on the menu.

And let's not forget the Haggis, that famous (or is it infamous) Scottish dish. What is a Haggis you ask? Basically it's a type of sausage meat made from liver and offal, plus oatmeal, onion and spices. This whole mixture is cooked inside a bag made from a sheep's stomach. Enough said! Joking aside though, Haggis is quite tasty, and there are now newer 'gourmet' versions appearing in restaurants across Scotland, there's even a vegetarian version.

Probably my favorite part of Scotland culture when it comes to traditional Scottish foods are the baked goods. Scottish pancakes, scones, cakes, pies, shortbread - my mouth is watering already. Trust me, you'll want to try it all :o)

Scotland Culture - *Favorite Scottish Sports*



Lion Rampant Flag

When it comes to the number one sport in Scotland it's just got to be Scottish football (aka soccer).

Football in Scotland dates back to 1873 when the Scottish Football Association was first founded.

There's an enormous amount of national pride in Scottish football clubs and the national team. Just

about every family has their loyalties and they run deep.

Golf is popular, and in fact Scotland is known as the 'home of golf' as this is where the sport originated back in the 15th century. Some of the

greatest golf courses in the world are in Scotland, St. Andrews is a nationally recognized name and is one of the oldest golf courses in the world.

Scotland has an abundance of fresh water, and that lends itself well to another sport.... fishing. Salmon, Trout, Pike and Perch are in abundance in the many lochs and rivers. If you enjoy fishing in general, try it among the beautiful and wild Scottish landscape - you'll be 'hooked' (sorry, I couldn't resist!).

Scotland Culture..... and to sum it all up.....

Well, actually we can't 'sum it all up'.... at least not right here.

Why not? Because it's impossible to really do justice to Scotland culture in a few short paragraphs, with a country as old, and rich in history as this one, there's just so much to learn and enjoy!

We've looked at all the aspects of Scottish traditions and culture above (and many others), much more closely throughout our site, so we hope you'll continue to browse and enjoy the rest of your 'cyber-tour of Scotland'.

Click on any of the links in the above paragraphs, or below, or use the navigation bar on the left to learn more. Explore and enjoy!

[The Clans of Scotland](#)

[Scottish Kilts](#)

[Scottish Symbols](#)

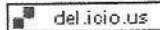
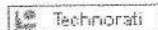
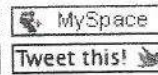
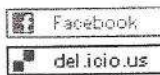
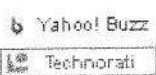
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SCOTLAND

A. Definitions

1. typo	a.
2. superstitious	b. <i>Believe supernatural</i>
3. rugged	c.
4. tumultuous	d.
5. vegan	e.
6. scone	f.
7. abundance	g.
8. browse	h.

B. Synonyms

1. mist	a. celebration
2. gregarious	b. supernatural
3. psyche	c. violin
4. fiddle	d. fog
5. revelry	e. addicted

6. paranormal	f. mentality
7. imposing	g. sociable
8. hooked	h. impressive

C. Phrase match

1. their very beginnings are	a.
2. the Scottish people	b.
3. The Scottish	c.
4. No wonder	d.
5. Probably the best known	e.
6. It made	f.
7. When it comes	g.
8. And don't	h.

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[illegible]

H	A	G	G	I	S				

G	O	L	F
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EDINBURGH

[illegible]

BAEP EPES

13	14	15	16	17

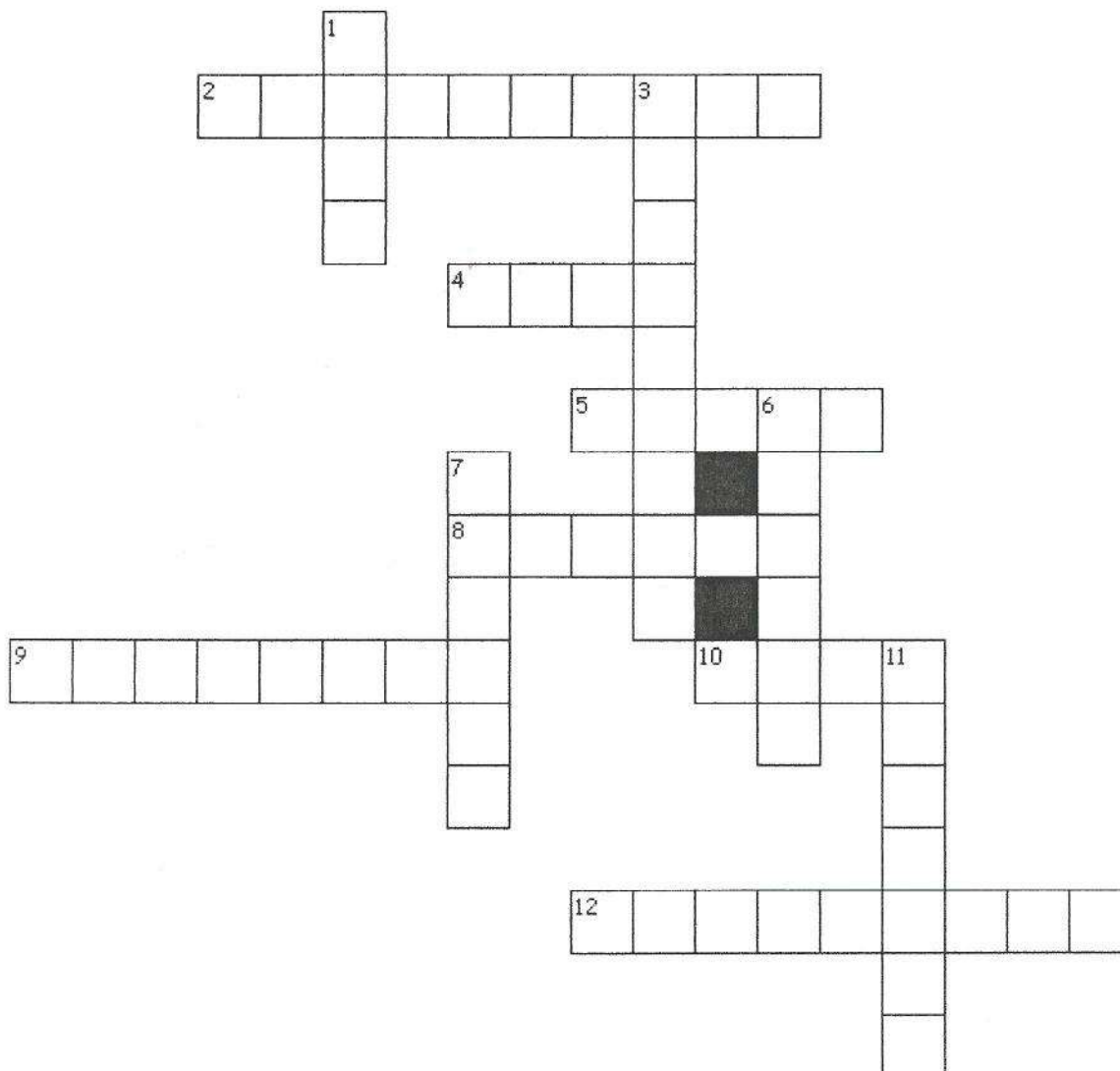
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SCOTLAND



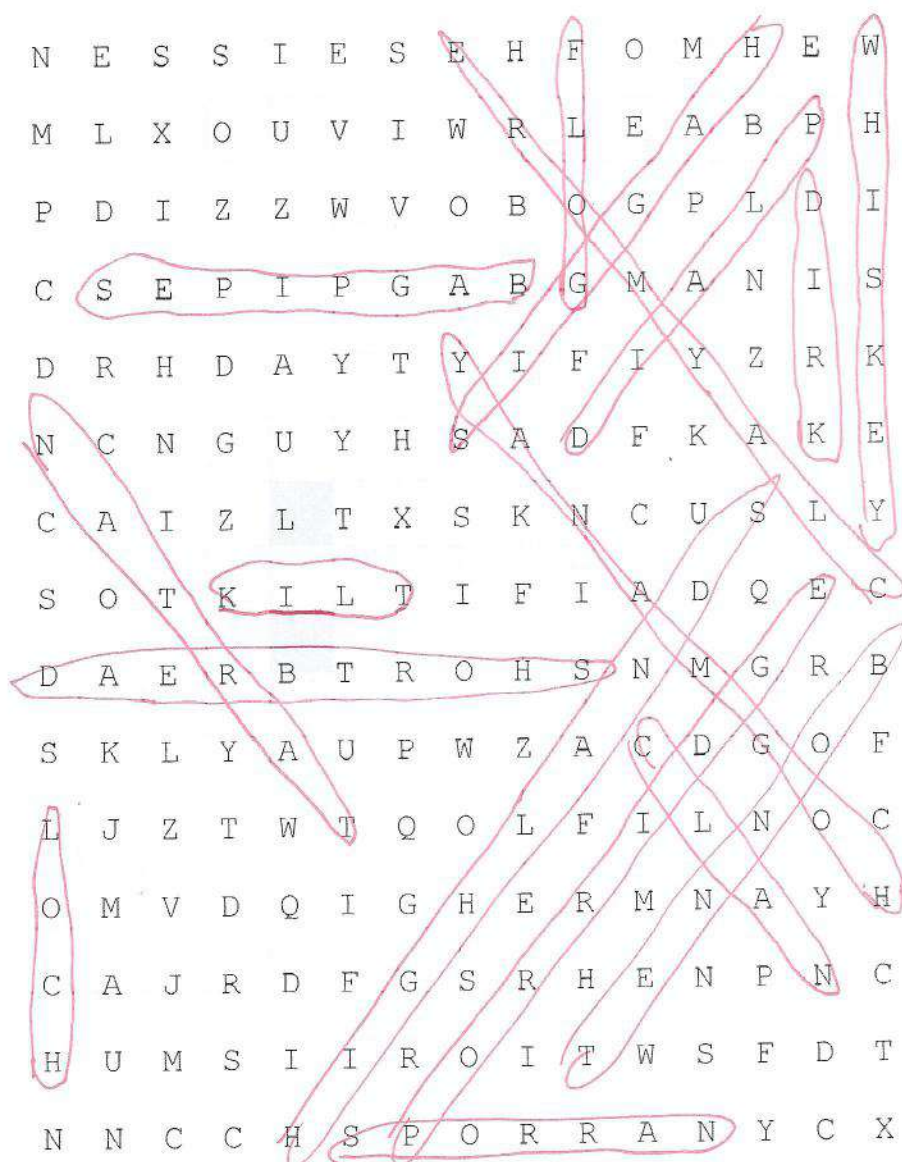
Across

- 2. a biscuit not short of butter
- 4. a big highland family
- 5. the bard
- 8. a scottish treat
- 9. a very loud instrument
- 10. popular wear in scotland
- 12. a famous italian

Down

- 1. a fiendish scottish invention
- 3. famous for its festival
- 6. the monster of loch ness
- 7. scotland's famous drink
- 11. a symbolic plant

SCOTLAND

~~BAGPIPES~~~~CLAYMORE~~~~HAGGIS~~~~KILT~~~~PORRIDGE~~~~TARTAN~~~~BONNET~~~~DIRK~~~~HIGHLANDS~~~~LOCH~~~~SHORTBREAD~~~~WHISKEY~~~~CLAN~~~~GOLF~~~~HOGMANAY~~~~PLAID~~~~SPORRAN~~

N E S C I E . S H O M E

17 of 17 words were placed into the puzzle.

Solution