



Scotland

The Scottish flag has the cross of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. Keep your eyes open and you'll see another Scottish symbol growing all over Scotland – the thistle. This common weed¹ with prickly² leaves is a symbol used by rugby teams and football teams, businesses and societies, and the police.



A thistle



The Scottish flag



Languages

There are three languages spoken in Scotland: English, Scots, and Scottish Gaelic. Scottish Gaelic is a Celtic language which is very different from English. It's spoken by people in the west of Scotland and in the Hebrides. Traditionally, Scots is spoken in the south and east.

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| English | Can you help me? |
| Scots | Can ye gie's a haund? |
| Scottish Gaelic | Trobhad an-seo 's cuidich leam? |

Places of interest



Edinburgh Castle

EDINBURGH ['edɪnbərə] is the capital of Scotland and was the seat³ of Scottish kings. They lived in the Castle, built on a huge rock in the centre of the city. The castle is very popular with tourists. Every day at one o'clock in the afternoon except Sundays a big cannon is fired.

It can be heard two miles away and in the past ships in the nearby port of Leith used it to tell the time. Today, when the Queen visits Edinburgh, she doesn't stay in the Castle. Her official residence is at Holyrood House. This beautiful palace is connected to the Castle a mile away by a road called The Royal Mile.

Edinburgh is also famous for the *Edinburgh International Festival*, which attracts the best musicians and actors from all over the world. Visitors to the festival can go to a different concert or a play every night for four weeks in August. The *Edinburgh Tattoo*⁴ is a performance of military bands and exhibitions of drums and bagpipes. The Tattoo takes place in front of the castle, which makes a dramatic background.

ABERDEEN is an important oil and gas centre in the north of Scotland. It's a large port which supplies North Sea oil rigs⁵ with everything they need.

DUNDEE, halfway between Edinburgh and Aberdeen, is the fourth largest city in Scotland and is an important centre for retail⁶, health services and education. Famous video games including *Grand Theft Auto* and *Lemmings* were developed in Dundee.

GLASGOW is the largest and busiest city in Scotland, 70km west of Edinburgh. Glasgow was traditionally a working-class industrial town. It was one of the first European cities to reach 1 million inhabitants. During the 19th century, Glasgow was a centre of heavy industry:

coal, shipbuilding, textiles and carpet manufacturing. These industries have now closed down and Glasgow is better known for its architecture, design and culture. Glasgow became the UK City of Architecture and Design in 1999, it was UNESCO City of Music in 2008, there are four universities and well-known football and rugby teams. Today it's a modern, cosmopolitan city.



Prince William met Kate Middleton in St Andrews.

ST ANDREW is the patron saint of Scotland and the ancient seaside town is named after him. The town is home to Scotland's oldest university, established in 1411. Prince William went to St Andrews' University, where he met his wife Kate Middleton. St Andrews is also the home of golf. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club was founded here in 1754!



Tom Hanks and Audrey Tatou in *The Da Vinci Code* movie.

ROSSLYN CHAPEL in the village of Roslin, about ten kilometres south of Edinburgh, was made famous by Dan Brown's novel *The Da Vinci Code*. In the book, the main characters find the Holy Grail in Rosslyn Chapel.

LOCH NESS is the second largest lake in Scotland, the home of the Loch Ness Monster (Nessie). Nobody knows if the monster actually exists, but thousands of tourists visit every year to admire⁷ the beautiful and mysterious loch (lake), see the ruins of the 13th century Urquhart ['ʊrkət] Castle and climb the Scottish Highlands which surround the loch.

Famous Scots

Perhaps the most interesting thing about Scotland is the people. There's a long list of famous Scottish writers and poets (Arthur Conan Doyle, Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott), singers (Annie Lennox, Susan Boyle), actors (Ewan McGregor, Sean Connery, Rose Leslie), mathematicians (John Napier – logarithms), warriors (William Wallace – Braveheart), scientists and inventors (James Watt, Alexander Graham Bell), and sportsmen and women (Andy Murray – tennis player, Shirley Robertson – sailor).

Task

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

1. Which is the busiest city in Scotland?
2. What is the capital of Scotland?
3. Which city has the oldest university?
4. Which city has a cannon which is fired every day at 1 pm?
5. Which city is the home of golf?
6. Which Scottish port city is the most important for the Scottish oil industry?
7. Which Scottish city is famous for the development of video games?

1. Glasgow, 2. Edinburgh, 3. St Andrews, 4. Edinburgh, 5. St Andrews, 6. Aberdeen, 7. Dundee

MATURITA QUESTIONS

- What do you know about Scotland? (Where is it? Which country does it belong to? What do you know about symbols, languages and the currency?)
- Speak about the landscape, bagpipers, kilts, whisky, and special events.
- Which places would you recommend visiting in Scotland? Why? Describe three places.
- Name five famous Scots.

VOCABULARY

- ¹ **weed** [wi:d] – pleveľ
- ² **prickly** ['prɪkli] – pichlavý
- ³ **seat** [si:t] – sídlo
- ⁴ **tattoo** [tæ'tu:] – vojenský pochod
- ⁵ **rig** [rɪg] – vrtné zařízení
- ⁶ **retail** ['ri:teɪl] – maloobchod
- ⁷ **to admire** [əd'maɪə] – obdivovat