

## Scotland - a small country with a colourful history



Haggis and whisky; kilts and tartan; mountains and lochs. Together these things conjure up the typical image of Scotland.

Scotland's history – and future – has an uncomfortable relationship with England. Even the Romans wanted to keep the Scottish out of England: they built Hadrian's Wall from the Irish

Sea to the North Sea. Over one thousand years later, the English and the Scots were frequently at war with each other – the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 was a victory for the Scots, the Battle of Flodden Field in 1513 was a victory for the English.

After the death of Elizabeth I of England in 1603 (she had no heirs), James VI of Scotland came south to London and inherited the English throne, becoming James I of England. Although both countries had the same monarch, they remained separate states – and the conflict between them remained as well. But both parliaments wanted a united country and so in 1707 the Treaty of Union was signed and Scotland became part of Great Britain, despite anti-union riots in Edinburgh, Glasgow and elsewhere throughout Scotland.

Nevertheless, Scotland has retained some of its separation from England: it has its own legal, educational and religious institutions. And these differences remain today. For example, the high university fees charged by English and Welsh universities are not imposed by Scottish universities. University education, as in Germany, is more or less free – unless you come from outside the European Union – or you come from England. In 1999 the Scottish parliament was reconvened and many powers were devolved from Westminster, London. In 2011, the Scottish National Party (SNP) won a majority in the parliament and were able to put forward plans for a referendum on Scottish independence. So, 307 years after the Act of Union, Scotland may once again be independent. On 18 September 2014, the Scottish people will be asked to vote on the question: Should Scotland be an independent country?

Even Barack Obama has got involved, saying at the beginning of June that although the decision on independence was up to the people of Scotland, he admitted that he would like the United Kingdom to remain 'strong, robust and united.'

There are many issues being discussed by the pro and anti campaigners: Would Scotland be able to stay in the EU? Would there be controls on the

Anglo-Scottish border? Could Scotland keep the pound sterling as its currency? How would English companies deal with their Scottish investments? Would Scotland be able to remain in NATO? Would the Queen remain head of state or would Scotland become a republic? These and other questions are filling many newspaper columns north and south of the border. Currently, it looks like the 'no' camp is winning (slogan: *Better together*) although the 'yes' camp (slogan: *Scotland's future in Scotland's hands*) is still in a strong position.

In the autumn you'll know whether the United Kingdom retains four members, or whether it has been reduced by one, and Scotland is an independent country once more.

To find out more about Scotland click [here](#).  
And if you would like to know more about the Scottish referendum, then click [here](#).

If you would like to use Scotland as a topic in your lesson, we have provided you with two activities. You'll find them in the following **Teacher's notes** and on the **Worksheet**.

## Teacher's notes

### Activity 1 (level A2.2 upwards) 15+ mins

- Copy Activity 1, **An introduction to Scotland** (see Worksheet) - one for each student.
- On the board write **Scotland**. Ask students what they know about it. Allow a few minutes of discussion.
- Give each student a copy of **An introduction to Scotland** and ask them to complete the exercise. Help with any unknown vocabulary.
- Check answers together.

**Key:** (1) England, (2) Edinburgh, (3) Aberdeen, (4) Nessie, (5) whisky, (6) Dundee Cake, (7) kilt, (8) tartan, (9) bagpipes, (10) St Andrew, (11) Braveheart, (12) thirteenth

### Activity 2 (level A2.2 upwards) 20+ mins

- Copy Activity 2, **Scotland crossword** (see Worksheet) – make sure you make one copy of the Student A and one copy of the Student B crossword for each pair of students.

- Explain that students are going to complete a crossword.
- On the board write: **Glasgow**. Ask students how you could write the clue for this word: *A big city in Scotland. The Commonwealth Games are taking place here.*
- Give each pair of students a copy of the crossword, but make sure one of the pair gets the Student A version and one gets the Student B version.
- Tell students to look at the words in their crossword and think of (or write) clues for each word. Help with any difficult words.
- If you think it easier, put two Student As and two Student Bs together to help each other with the clues and then put students into A and B pairs.
- Students complete the crossword together.
- When everyone has finished, ask what the central word is on the crossword (*independent*). Tell students about the referendum on 18 September (referendum = a public vote on a special question) and the important question: Should Scotland be an independent country?
- Ask students what they think about this question.

**Key:**

1				W	H	I	S	K	Y		
2	T	A	R	T	A	N					
3				A	N	D	R	E	W		
4					N	E	S	S	I	E	
5			B	A	G	P	I	P	E	S	
6	R	E	F	E	R	E	N	D	U	M	
7					E	N	G	L	A	N	D
8		A	B	E	R	D	E	E	N		
9		D	U	N	D	E	E				
10			E	D	I	N	B	U	R	G	H
11			K	I	L	T					

## Worksheet

### Activity 1: An introduction to Scotland

Read the text about Scotland and circle the right words.

Scotland is part of the United Kingdom and has a border with (1) **England / Wales**. Its capital city is (2) **Cardiff / Edinburgh**, a beautiful city on the east coast. Its largest city is Glasgow, famous for shipbuilding. In the north of the country is (3) **Aberdeen / Loch Ness**, a city which is sometimes called the *Oil Capital of Europe*, because of its investment in North Sea oil. If you travel to the Highlands near Inverness, you will find Loch Ness, a deep lake where some people say (4) **Nessie / Bessie** the monster lives.

Scotland is famous for (5) **whisky / gin**, a strong alcoholic drink made from malt - many tourists enjoy having a tour at a factory and tasting the drink. A popular cake made from fruit and nuts is called (6) **Dundee Cake / London Cake** named after the city between Edinburgh and Aberdeen. Scotland is also well-known for the special skirt that men wear, called a (7) **quilt / kilt** which is made from a checked material called (8) **tartan / tweed**. Have you ever heard Scottish music? The Scots love to play the (9) **doodlebug / bagpipes**. Some people love the sound of this instrument, and some people hate it! Each country has a patron saint and so does Scotland: (10) **St Andrew / St George**. The town where Prince William went to university is named after the Scottish patron saint.

Scotland and England were joined together in 1707, but many Scots now want to become independent. On September 18 2014, people will be able to vote and answer the question: *Should Scotland be an independent country?* Do you remember the film (11) **Mrs Doubtfire / Braveheart** starring Mel Gibson? Mel plays William Wallace, a Scottish warrior who goes to war against the English in the (12) **twentieth / thirteenth** century. It shows a romantic picture of the Scottish people and their wish to be an independent country.

## Activity 2: Scotland crossword

STUDENT A

Complete this crossword with Student B's help.

1				W	H	I	S	K	Y		
2											
3				A	N	D	R	E	W		
4											
5			B	A	G	P	I	P	E	S	
6											
7					E	N	G	L	A	N	D
8											
9		D	U	N	D	E	E				
10											
11			K	I	L	T					



STUDENT B

Complete this crossword with Student A's help.

1										
2	T	A	R	T	A	N				
3										
4				N	E	S	S	I	E	
5										
6	R	E	F	E	R	E	N	D	U	M
7										
8		A	B	E	R	D	E	E	N	
9										
10		E	D	I	N	B	U	R	G	H
11										