

Destination – Scotland

Topic: Scotland

Aims:

- To develop all four communication skills
- To revise language of describing places

Level: Intermediate and above

Introduction

This lesson gives students the opportunity to find out more about Scotland. It is one of a collection of four Destination UK lesson plans that look at the four countries that make up the UK. Students will have the chance to read about Scotland and find out a little about its people, culture and language.

Procedure

Scotland Brainstorm

- To introduce the topic, ask your students to listen carefully to you in order to guess what the lesson is going to be about today.
- Give clues about Scotland until somebody guesses correctly. Grade the clues according to your students' level of English and their knowledge of geography. When they have guessed, draw a map of Britain on the board, write SCOTLAND in the corresponding part of the map and invite students to tell you whatever they may know about the country. Create a group mind-map around the geographical map.

Scotland Quiz

- This is a quiz about Scotland to get your students interested in learning more about the country. Put students into small groups or teams if you want to make the quiz into a competition and give each group a copy of **worksheet A**.
- Answers: 1 – c, 2 - b, 3 - a, 4 - c, 5 – a, 6 – c, 7 – b, 8 – c, 9 – c (English, Gaelic and Scots), 10 – a

Tip: For higher levels you could read the quiz out to them instead of giving each group a copy, to make a reading task into a more challenging listening activity. If you want to extend this activity you could ask your students to write a similar quiz about their own country to test your general knowledge!

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!

- Don't panic, this isn't a task to teach your students Gaelic. It's simply to raise students' awareness that English isn't the only language spoken in Britain. In the UK there are groups of people who are fighting hard to keep minority languages such as Gaelic or Cornish alive. Here students can look at a few words in Scottish Gaelic and then discuss the questions below about minority languages.
- You could either copy **worksheet B** for your students or you could simply write the Gaelic words on the board for students to see and then you can ask the discussion questions to the group. If you or your students are interested in the Gaelic language have a look at this BBC website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/alba/foghlam/learngaelic/index.shtml>

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	Trì – 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?

UK in Focus reading task – Living in Scotland

- This is a reading task with a text from the British Council's UK in Focus website.
- Students should work in pairs to do the task. They should read the text and then produce the questions to the answers that are given.

- Give students a copy of **Worksheet C**. Ask students to work in pairs or small groups if appropriate.
- Answers:
 - Q1) How many inhabited islands are there in Scotland? A1) 130.
 - Q2) Which is the largest city in Scotland? A2) Glasgow.
 - Q3) Name two famous Scottish bands? A3) Travis and Franz Ferdinand
 - Q4) When did Scotland get its own parliament? A4) 1999
 - Q5) Which industry in Scotland is currently growing? A5) The computer games industry.

Tip: To make a reading task more challenging for higher levels, ask them to write the questions instead of simply finding the answers. Likewise, to make this task easier for lower levels, give them the questions and they can find the answers.

Worksheet C – UK in Focus reading task – Living in Scotland

Read about Scotland, then write the questions to these answers! Q = question, A = answer.

Q1)

A1) 130.

Q2)

A2) Glasgow.

Q3)

A3) Travis and Franz Ferdinand

Q4)

A4) 1999

Q5)

A5) The computer games industry.

Text**Scotland****Where it is**

Scotland is the UK's most northern country and has around 790 islands off its coasts – 130 of which have people living on them. Scotland is well known for its stunning landscapes, beautiful beaches and lochs, which are fresh water lakes. There are over 600 square miles of lochs in Scotland including the most famous one, Loch Ness.

It has a population of just over five million people which is about 8.5 per cent of the whole UK population. Over 2 million of these live in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and almost half of Scotland's population live in the Central Belt, where both the largest city (Glasgow) and the capital city (Edinburgh) are located.

Festivals and music

Scotland also hosts one of the biggest arts festivals in the world. This is commonly known as the Edinburgh Festival but is actually made up of a number of different festivals which happen at different times of the year, though many do take place in August and September. Many people have heard of the Fringe Festival, but there are also the International Festival, the Film Festival, the Children's Festival and the Edinburgh Mela which is an intercultural festival.

Musically it has recently produced bands Travis and Franz Ferdinand and other famous Scots include KT Tunstall, Ewan McGregor, Sean Connery and Andy Murray.

Political devolution

In July 1999 the Scottish Parliament was opened, the first for over 300 years as Scotland had been governed from London. Scottish Parliamentary responsibilities include health, education and local government.

Stereotypes

Stereotypical images of Scotland often focus on things like tartan, kilts, heather and haggis as well as the scenery. These are all still a part of the country but contemporary Scotland is building a name for itself in other areas, such as its thriving computer games industry.

Source: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/ism-ukinfocus-regional-scotland.htm>

Castaway

- In the year 2000 the BBC conducted a 'social experiment' by putting 36 men, women and children on an extremely remote island of Scotland called Taransay. They filmed the progress of the participants who lived in complete isolation as a community for a year. You could compare it to the reality shows that now invade the TV, such as Big Brother or Survival. Have a look at the websites in the tip below and print some pictures to show your students so they will see what the island looks like.
- Then tell your students that there is going to be a new series of Castaway and the BBC are looking for volunteers. First, ask students to think about the advantages and disadvantages of taking part and living on a remote Scottish island for a year. Then tell students to discuss the questions in groups to decide who would be the best person to take part in the show.

Tip: Find out more about the TV show by having a look at these websites before the class, or if possible, with your class before they begin the activity. They have some photos of the island which will help to bring the activity to life.

<http://www.scotland-inverness.co.uk/taransay.htm> – Isle of Taransay where Castaway was filmed.

<http://www.visit-taransay.com/> – more information about Taransay.

Worksheet D – Castaway

Scotland has 790 islands. Most of these islands are very tiny, only 62 are more than 3 square miles! In the year 2000 the BBC made a TV programme called Castaway. It was filmed on a remote Scottish island. They put 36 men, women and children on the island and they had to work together to survive. Discuss these questions in groups, then decide who would be the best person to participate in the programme and complete the sentence below.

- Do you like spending time outside?
- What sort of weather do you like?
- Do you like having a lot of people around you?
- What would you like about living on a remote island in Scotland?
- What or who would you miss if you lived on the island?
- What type of people would be good for the new Castaway programme?

We think _____ would be the best person to go on the new Castaway programme because

Haggis – Scotland's national dish

- Scotland's national dish is the haggis. People from other parts of the UK find the ingredients a little strange, so your students may be surprised by the recipe! Ask them to read the ingredients – you may have to help with vocabulary – and then read the method and the section about when it's eaten. Use students' reactions to the dish to develop discussion about unusual things they have eaten or their favourite food. Using the information about haggis as a guide, students then write about one of their national dishes.

- Give students a copy of **worksheet D** and read through the ingredients and method section of the recipe together. Then discuss the questions as a group. The follow up activity asks students to write about their own national dish.

Tip: For very high level classes, extend this task by looking at this famous poem, 'To a Haggis' which is the poem traditionally read at Burn's night. Don't worry if you don't understand it all. Most native speakers of English would find it difficult to understand completely!
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/history/burnsnight/poetry/haggis.shtml>
To give students an idea about modern Scottish cuisine have a look at the Eat Scotland website:
<http://eatscotland.visitscotland.com/>

Worksheet E – Haggis – Scotland's national dish

Scotland's national dish is called 'Haggis'. The ingredients include:

Sheep's heart
Sheep's liver
Sheep's lungs
Sheep's windpipe
Beef suet
Toasted oatmeal
Herbs and spices.

Method:

The ingredients are mixed together and put inside a sheep's stomach. The haggis is boiled before eating.

When is it eaten?

Haggis is eaten on special occasions like Burn's Night, a special dinner to celebrate the life of Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet, which is held on January 25th. There is even a special poem called 'To a Haggis' that is read when the national dish is brought to the table. There are now many vegetarian versions of the dish so that everyone can join in the party!

- Would you like to try haggis? Why / why not?
- What's your country's national dish?
- Now write a similar description of your national dish.

Our national dish is called _____. The ingredients include:

Method:

When is it eaten?