

Silvana Sardi
Scotland is Magic!

Do you like mystery, legends or haunted castles? Or how about vibrant cities and exciting festivals? Well, you will find all of these and much more in this A-Z about Scotland. It's a country full of history and traditions and lots of surprises too! There's something for everybody from sports to museums! So, come on! Start your A-Z journey through Scotland and discover the magic of this fantastic country!

In this reader you'll find:

- Glossary of difficult words
- After reading activities
- An audio recording of the book

Tags

History | Nature | Traditions

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FOR REVIEW ONLY

Contents

6	About Scotland
8	Bagpipes
10	Castles
12	Dolly the Sheep
14	Edinburgh
16	Food
18	Gaelic
20	Highland Games
22	Interesting Places
24	Join us in Glasgow
26	Kilts and Tartan
28	Landscapes and Nature
30	Music
32	Nessie
34	Orkney
36	Puffins and Animals
38	Queens
40	Rosslyn Chapel
42	Sport
44	Thistle
46	Unicorn
48	Visiting Museums
50	Writers and Poets
52	X - Saltire Saint Andrew
54	Yearly Festivals
56	Z - World War Z and other films
58	Activities

These icons indicate the parts of the story that are recorded

start  stop 

About Scotland



- 2 **If someone says Scotland, what do you think of? Kilts? Tartan? The Bagpipes? Well, yes you're right, but there's lots more too! First, let's see where Scotland is!**



On the map

Scotland is north of England and is part of the island of Great Britain. Scotland also has many islands, almost 800! The most famous islands are Shetland (where those nice little ponies* come from!) Orkney, the Hebrides, Arran and Skye. Just over 5 million people live in Scotland so there's lots of space for everyone!

History

People have lived in Scotland since 10,000 BC, but they haven't always had a quiet life. First, the Romans arrived in England but they didn't get much farther. The Romans were afraid of the Scots so they built a wall between England and Scotland called 'Hadrian's Wall'. You can still see parts of it today. Then the Vikings came from Norway and Denmark. But Scotland's biggest enemy* became the English and there were lots of wars between these two countries. Do you remember the film *Braveheart* about William Wallace? He fought against the English for a free Scotland. There were wars for years. Then, finally, in 1603, King James VI of Scotland became James I of both England and Scotland.

What about the people?

Millions of tourists come to visit Scotland every year. Scottish people are friendly and will always help you with a smile. Remember, if you come to visit, bring an umbrella because the Scottish summer can be very short, and even then it rains! And... never ask a Scot if he's English or you could be in big trouble!



The Government

Scotland is part of the UK but it has had its own parliament since 1999 in Edinburgh, the capital city. The Scottish Parliament decides on things like health*, laws and education*, while the UK parliament decides about defence* and Europe. On 18th September 2014, there was a referendum to decide if Scotland wanted to become a completely independent country but Scotland decided to stay part of the UK. Since the 'Brexit' result, Scotland is thinking about having another referendum to become independent. Who knows...maybe one day...



pony a small horse
enemy not a friend
health hospitals etc.
education schools, universities etc.
defence how to keep the country safe

Bagpipes

- 3 **Of all the different types of musical instruments, bagpipes have a really unique sound. Have you ever heard anyone playing them? Do you think bagpipes come from Scotland? They certainly play them in Scotland but maybe there's more to their history than you think...**



Where do they come from?

Bagpipes are very important in Scotland but... they weren't invented there! Historians believe that bagpipes were used in ancient Rome and parts of the Middle East, including Persia (known today as Iran). How they arrived in Scotland is still a mystery. Many people began to associate bagpipes with Scotland after World Wars I and II, because there was always a piper* who played them at the start of a battle*.

Do you know?

Today, Scotland is one of the two countries where bagpipes are made. The other country is... Pakistan!

Bagpipe Day

March 10th is International Bagpipe Day. On this day, all kinds of pipers meet together, organise concerts, visit schools and play in the streets. It's great fun!



When do they play the bagpipes?

There are lots of different types of bagpipes. The most famous are the Great Highland pipes that are bigger than other bagpipes and the most difficult to play. The sound of the bagpipes is very particular and most people love it or hate it! In the past, each clan* had its own piper who wrote special songs. He played when a child was born, at weddings*, and when somebody died, and at the start of a battle. Today the bagpipes are played at special times like New Year and at weddings.



Bagpipes aren't popular just with folk and country music but... pop music too.

For example, a piper played in Paul McCartney's song *Mull of Kintyre* and in ACDC's song, *It's a long way to the top*. You can also find electronic bagpipes now, but they will never take the place of the Great Highland bagpipes.



Can you believe it?

Astronaut Kjell Lindgren played *Amazing Grace* with his bagpipes in space! It seems to be the first time for this instrument in space!

piper the person who plays the bagpipes
battle part of a war

clan large group of people from the same family
wedding when two people get married

Castles

► 4 Do you know how many castles there are in Scotland? Thousands! There are strange castles that are family homes, castles that are now hotels and... best of all haunted* castles. Read about some of them and decide which one you'd like to visit.

If you believe in ghosts Cawdor Castle is the place for you!

Cawdor Castle is famous for its two ghosts that haunt the castle. Many people say they have seen a woman in a blue dress, Muriel Calder, and her husband Sir John Campbell. The Campbell family lived in Cawdor Castle in the 1500s and Muriel got married to John when she was only eleven or twelve! They loved each other very much and their ghosts show everybody that they have stayed together forever. So, if you see them, don't be afraid, they're friendly ghosts!

Would you like to live in a castle? Well, the Boyle family do...

Kelburn Castle is certainly very strange! Just have a look at the picture and you'll see why! The castle was first built in the 13th century and is now the home of the Boyle family. In 2007, the family asked three Brazilian Graffiti artists to paint the outside walls because they were old and broken. Do you like their work?



Go back in time at Stirling Castle

Stirling Castle was the home of the Kings and Queens of Scotland. It's famous for the ghost of Mary Witherspoon known as the 'Pink Lady'. People say they can smell roses in the air, her favourite flower, when she is in a room. The castle is fun too because you can dress up in period costumes and play medieval instruments. From the Castle, across the valley, you can see the 'Wallace Monument', a tower on a hill. They built the tower to remember this 'Braveheart' who fought to keep Scotland free. If you want to visit it, remember there are 247 steps to get to the top of the tower (phew!) but the view is great!



Would you like to sleep the night in a haunted castle or join a ghost hunt?

Lots of castles in Scotland organise sleepovers* or special tours at midnight where you can meet ghosts and hear about their terrible stories. Too scary for you?



After-reading Activities

About Scotland

How much can you remember?

- 1 Scotland is north of E_____.
- 2 There are lots of i_____.
- 3 King J_____ I was the first King of Scotland and England.
- 4 It often r_____ a lot in summer.
- 5 E_____ is the capital city.

Bagpipes

Talk to a partner and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 People played the bagpipes in Persia. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2 Bagpipes are only made in Scotland. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3 Each clan had its own piper. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4 You can find bagpipes in pop music. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5 An astronaut played the bagpipes on the moon. | ☐ | ☐ |

Castles

Match each castle with its description.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 ☐ Cawdor Castle | a Graffiti artists painted it. |
| 2 ☐ Kelburn Castle | b The Kings and Queens of Scotland lived here. |
| 3 ☐ Stirling Castle | c There are two friendly ghosts. |

Dolly the Sheep

Read about Dolly and complete the text.

Dolly was a famous sheep because she was (1)
She was (2) on 5th July 1996. She got her name
from the American (3), Dolly Parton. She had a
happy (4) at the Roslin Institute. She had six
(5) She lived for six and a half (6)

Edinburgh

Your class visited Edinburgh last week. Write an email to your Australian friend, Mark. Tell him:

- what you saw
- what you did
- what you liked best

Food

What would you like to eat?

- 1 It's made from different parts of a sheep.
- 2 It's a soup.
- 3 It's a biscuit made with sugar and butter.
- 4 It's a sweet at the fish and chip shop.
- 5 It's a nice cake with a cup of tea.

h_____

c_____ s_____

s_____

d_____ f_____ m_____ b_____

y_____ y_____