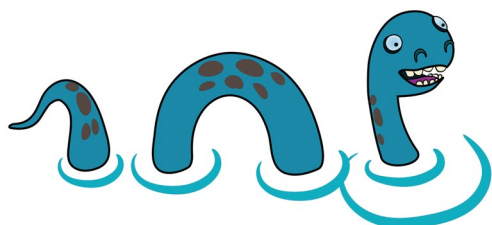


SCOTLAND

Scotland is located in the north of Great Britain and it is one of the countries of the United Kingdom. The capital of Scotland is Edinburgh, and Glasgow is the largest Scottish city. English is the main language spoken in Scotland today. The country has two other official languages that include Scots and Scottish-Gaelic. The English spoken in Scotland is called Scottish English, and the Scottish accent is very different from standard English.



The country can be divided into three parts – the Lowlands, the Highlands and islands. There are over 700 islands in Scotland! There are also many deep lakes

that are called lochs. The most famous lake is Loch Ness and people believe that a monster called 'Nessie' lives there. Nessie is often described as a dinosaur-like creature, with a long neck, two humps and a tail. Many people claim to have seen the monster, but there is no proof that Nessie really exists. Whether real or not, Nessie is famous all over the world!



ST ANDREW'S CROSS



The national flag of Scotland is called St Andrew's Cross and it is the oldest flag in Europe. St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. There is an old legend that explains the origin of the Scottish flag. Saint Andrew was a fisherman from Galilee in the 1st century AD, and he became one of the twelve apostles – the disciples of Jesus Christ. The apostle was crucified by the Romans on an X-shaped cross and this is represented on the Scottish flag as the white cross in a blue sky. Legend has it that in 832 AD the Scottish army was about to fight a battle with the Angles. King Angus of Scotland started to pray to St Andrew and promised him that if he helped the Scots win, he would become the patron saint of the country. The following morning strange clouds appeared in the sky: they looked like a huge cross. The Angles were afraid of the strange cross, and they lost the battle. King Angus kept his promise and St Andrew's cross has been the Scottish flag ever since. St Andrew became the patron saint of Scotland and his day is celebrated on November 30th.

THE KILT

Do you know that men in Scotland wear skirts? They are called kilts and they are part of the national Scottish costume. The kilt has a long history and Scottish people wear it with pride. It was easy to make and very convenient in the climate of Scotland. In the past, there were no roads in the Highlands and people had to travel on foot in the damp grassland. The kilt was very practical because it was almost waterproof and dried out a lot more quickly than trousers!

The bagpipe is the national Scottish instrument. It has a bag that holds air and one or more flutes (or pipes) with finger holes. To make music, the person who plays it, called the piper, presses the bag and the air comes out through the flutes.





THE THISTLE

The thistle is the national symbol of Scotland and according to legend, the plant played an important role in the country's history. In the 13th century, the army of King Haakon of Norway attacked Scotland. They wanted to attack at night to catch the sleeping Scots by surprise. They took their shoes off to make no sound, but as they were walking barefoot, they stepped on prickly thistles, and they started crying out in pain. The noise woke the Scottish warriors who defeated the Norsemen, and the purple thistle was chosen as Scotland's national emblem.

Scotland also has its national animal – the unicorn!



HAGGIS

Haggis is the national dish of Scotland. It is made of sheep liver, heart, and lungs mixed with beef and oatmeal, onion, pepper and other spices. The mixture is packed into a sheep's stomach and boiled. Bon appetit!



The Scots are a nation of innovators and inventors. Their inventions include the telephone, the steam engine, penicillin and the pedal bicycle. The raincoat was also invented in Scotland by a man named Charles Macintosh from Glasgow. It rains a lot in Scotland, so it was very useful!

Across

6. Without shoes
8. There are over 700 of them in Scotland
9. The telephone is one of them
10. The name of the famous Scottish monster
12. The biggest Scottish city
13. A traditional Scottish instrument
15. A hundred years
16. The Scottish word for lake
17. Scotland's patron saint

Down

1. Saint Andrew was one of them
2. The national dish of Scotland
3. The colour of the thistle
4. The Scottish skirt worn by men
5. A Scottish invention which is very useful when it rains
7. The national plant of Scotland
11. The capital of Scotland
14. The national animal of Scotland

CROSSWORD

