

Scotland: a Reading and Listening Comprehension

Level:

This lesson can be used on all ages of elementary to intermediary students.

Target:

The aim of this lesson is to improve speaking and listening skills talking about Scotland.

Preparation:

First print the activity sheets. Photocopy them for each student in the class.

Procedure

1. Introduce yourself to the students and let them do the same if they do not know each other 1 minute
2. Ice Breaker: Tell the students that you are going to talk about

Scotland

3. Go through glossary related to Scotland and read, first, the article aloud.
4. Hand out the reading text, get the students to read it in turns. Go through difficult vocabulary with them.
5. Hand out the “Questions sheet” . Students answer the questions in pairs.
6. Ask the students to write a short passage about a place they visited and liked best. Each student will read his passage in front of the class.
7. Listen to the audio about Scotland and discuss in the class about its content and the peculiar Scottish pronunciation

Activity Sheet (1)

SCOTLAND

Scotland, whose name is associated with the ancient tribe of the Scots, occupies the northern part of Britain.

It is divided into 33 countries and since the Act of Union (1707) it has been an integral part of Great Britain.

Yet the Scots like to consider their country quite distinct from England because they are very proud of their customs and traditions.

The Scots, in fact, gather together on many occasions to revive ancient traditions and to keep the spirit of the clan alive. Two of the most popular events are the Edinburgh International Festival and the Braemar Gathering.

To many foreigners Scotland means something mysterious: a land of legends, whisky, kilts, sheep and a lot of people called MacSomething; possibly a wild, sparsely populated landscape.

This is somewhat true but we can't omit saying that it is the

beautiful country of a strong, industrious race of men who are friendly to everybody and prouder of their traditions than any other people on the earth.

The two largest towns of the kingdom are Edinburgh and Glasgow. Edinburgh, the capital city, dates back to the seventh century and is an important communications and commerce centre.

It is also a city of historical and artistic interest. The most famous monument is Edinburgh Castle; it is on Castle Rock, the remains of an old volcano, overlooking the surrounding lowlands.

Today the city is the centre of Scottish learning and culture.

It has a famous university and is also famous for its International Festival of Music and Drama.

Forty miles to the west of Edinburgh, on the banks of the river Clyde, stands the sea-port and industrial centre of Glasgow. With its population of over one million it is the third largest city in the British Isles after London and Birmingham.

Glasgow is notable as a great centre of engineering and is especially concerned with marine engineering.

There are, of course, many other industries such as printing and publishing, textile and clothing, chemical and oil refining.

Aberdeen is another very important city in Scotland. It is called the “Granite City” because many of its fine buildings are built of the granite that is quarried locally. The city is notable as the largest of the Scottish fishing ports and is an important centre of learning, too.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Where is Scotland situated?

2. What can you say of the Scots?

3. Describe the capital of Scotland

4. What can you say about the two largest towns of Scotland?

5. Why is Aberdeen called “The Granite City”?

CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER

1. Scotland occupies the:

- northern part of Britain
- southern part of Britain

2. Scotland is divided in:

- 13 countries
- 33 countries

3. Two of the most popular events in Scotland are:

- The Cinema festival
- The Braemar Gathering

4. The Scots are:

- friendly and proud of their traditions
- unfriendly and not proud

6. The capital city of Scotland is:

- Aberdeen
- Edinburgh

7. Edinburgh is an important:

- shopping centre
- communications and commerce centre

8. The most famous monument of Scotland is:

- Castle Rock
- Edinburgh Castle

9. Castle Rock is the remains of:

- an old castle
- an old volcano

10. Glasgow has a population of:

- over one million
- three hundred people

11. Glasgow is famous for its:

- marine engineering
- civic engineering

12. Aberdeen is called the Granite City:

- because many of its buildings are built of granite
- because many of its buildings are built of coral

