

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

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|--------|--------------------|----|--|
| 1..... | Celtic | a. | the name of a language spoken in Scotland |
| 2..... | Scots | b. | related to the Celts, an ancient people who lived in Scotland |
| 3..... | a parliament | c. | typical of a country and its culture |
| 4..... | tartan | d. | a Scottish sports, music and dance competition that is held every year |
| 5..... | traditional | e. | a government house where politicians meet and discuss things |
| 6..... | the Highland Games | f. | a design with horizontal and vertical lines in lots of colours |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|-----|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | All of Scotland's islands are populated. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | Scotland is a country of great natural beauty. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Scotland can make its own laws. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Most Scottish people can speak Scottish Gaelic. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | You can hear bagpipes at public and cultural events. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | Shinty is a traditional sport similar to hockey. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | A caber tossing competition involves throwing big tree trunks. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | Scotland has a lot of types of fish and seafood to choose from. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 9. | The Scottish flag is red and white. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 10. | Scotland's national symbols include a mythical animal and a flower. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: matching

Match the questions with the correct answers and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

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|--------|---|----|--------------------|
| 1..... | How many islands are there in Scotland? | a. | 11.30 p.m. |
| 2..... | What time does night begin in summer? | b. | about five million |
| 3..... | How many people live in Scotland? | c. | 8.5 |
| 4..... | What percentage of the UK population lives in Scotland? | d. | 30 |
| 5..... | When were the first Highland Games in New York? | e. | about 800 |
| 6..... | Which day in November is St Andrew's Day? | f. | 1836 |

3. Check your grammar: gap fill

Write the verb to fill the gaps.

1. Scotland _____ nearly 800 islands.
2. The Northern Lights _____ spectacular lights in the sky.
3. In winter you can sometimes _____ the Northern Lights.
4. Most people _____ in the south of the country.
5. Most people _____ two languages – English and Scots.
6. A kilt _____ a traditional skirt with a tartan design.
7. Pipers and dancers usually _____ kilts.
8. You can _____ skiing or snowboarding at Scotland's ski resorts.

Discussion

Have you ever been to Scotland? Would you like to go?