

Scotland Trivia

This activity includes 30 questions on Scotland. The questions are accompanied by the answers and additional information for discussion.

There are several activity possibilities:

- For a group activity, read and discuss the trivia questions and answers. Also, print the [picture pages](#) to pass around during the activity.
- For independent activities, print and distribute fill-in-the-blank copies of the [questions without the answers](#). Also available are the [questions with the answers](#).
- Post one or more of the trivia questions on your bulletin board every day or so throughout the month, using this [special sign](#).



Trivia Questions and Answers

1. What mythical marine creature is believed to live in a freshwater lake in Scotland?

Answer: The Loch Ness Monster. The tale of the Loch Ness Monster dates to ancient times; however, its mystique began to grow in 1933. After construction on a nearby road created a clear view of Loch Ness, there was an increase in reports that an enormous monster lived in the lake.

2. What alcoholic beverage is Scotland known for producing?

Answer: Whisky. With over 130 different distilleries, Scotland is the country with the highest concentration of whisky production in the world.

3. What is the term for the garment that resembles a plaid, wraparound, knee-length skirt?

Answer: Kilt. The kilt is traditional Scottish dress for men. It is a symbol of patriotism, has deep roots in Celtic history, and it is worn to pay tribute to Scottish heritage.

4. What is the name of the woodwind instrument that consists of single-reed or double-reed pipes and a reservoir for air?

Answer: Bagpipes. During the First World War, Scottish soldiers would often march into battle playing the bagpipes. Many of the generals believed the sound of the bagpipes would strike fear in the enemy.

5. What is the name of the traditional Scottish dish that consists of onion, pork, fat, oatmeal, and spices?

Answer: Black pudding. The traditional recipe for black pudding calls for pigs' blood to combine all the ingredients.



6. There are three official languages recognized in Scotland. Can you name them?

Answer: English, Scots, and Gaelic. Scots is an indigenous language of Scotland and is spoken by an estimated 1.5 million people across the country. Gaelic, however, is spoken by only an estimated 85,000 people.

7. What is Scotland's national animal?

Answer: The unicorn. In Celtic mythology, the unicorn is a figure of innocence, purity, and power. Scotland has a national Unicorn Day that is held each year on April 9.



8. What famous game was invented in Scotland in the 15th century?

Hint: Think birdie, eagle, and par.

Answer: Golf. It was originally played on the east coast of Scotland using pebbles and sticks.

9. During what month is Scottish American heritage celebrated?

Answer: April. In 2008, under the presidency of George W. Bush, the United States officially proclaimed April 6 to be National Tartan Day. The day is celebrated with parades, food, and drink.

10. What is the capital city of Scotland?

Answer: Edinburgh. The city is built on an extinct volcano. **Fun Fact:** "You'll have had your tea?" was a popular saying throughout Edinburgh as a way to avoid making tea for guests. It is rumored that a nobleman by the name of Mackintosh created the saying because he hated the sound of tea slurping.

11. What Scottish-born actor was the first of many to portray James Bond?

Answer: Sir Sean Connery. Although he is known for his incredible acting career, prior to the fame, Connery served in the Royal Navy in 1946.

12. Scotland is credited with having the first in the world of which emergency service: police, coast guard, or fire service?

Answer: Fire service. Edinburgh is credited with having the first ever public and local authority-funded fire service; it was created in 1824.

13. What is the national culinary dish of Scotland?

Answer: Haggis. Haggis is a mixture of sheep's liver, heart, and lungs that is mixed with beef and oatmeal. The import of haggis to the United States was prohibited in 1971 due to a ban on eating animal lungs.



14. What Scottish-born inventor is credited with creating the first practical telephone?

Answer: Alexander Graham Bell. Born in Edinburgh, Bell not only invented the telephone but also is credited with establishing the National Geographic Society in 1888.

15. What body of water separates Scotland from Northern Ireland?

Answer: The North Channel. For many years, swimmers have taken on the challenge of swimming the seven oceans. Amongst those swimmers, it is a widely known fact that the North Channel swim is the most difficult in the Oceans Seven challenge.

16. What is the name of the traditional Scottish event that includes the stone put, hammer throw, and sheaf toss?

Answer: The Scottish Highland Games. The Highland Games are an event held in the spring and summer as a way of celebrating Scottish culture. The first Highland Games in the United States were held in New York in 1836. Today, more than 200 Highland Games are held each year worldwide.



17. What is the name of the traditional Scottish dessert that has only three ingredients: flour, sugar, and butter?

Answer: Shortbread. During the 16th century, shortbread was usually served on special occasions such as Christmas and New Year's Day.

18. What 1995 Oscar-winning movie starring Mel Gibson is based on Scottish warrior William Wallace and his fight against King Edward of England?

Answer: *Braveheart*. The screenwriter was inspired to write a movie about Wallace after learning about him on a trip to Edinburgh, Scotland.

19. Which U.S. state has the most citizens of Scottish descent?

Answer: California. There are over 456,000 citizens of Scottish descent in California. Interestingly, Texas is not far behind with just over 375,000.

20. Who is the author who lived in Edinburgh, Scotland, and wrote the famous book series featuring Harry Potter?

Answer: J. K. Rowling. She has lived in Edinburgh since 1993. It is reported that the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry was influenced by the Scottish Highlands.

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Answer: *Encyclopedia Britannica*. It was first published in 1768, and since then over seven million copies of the books have been sold.



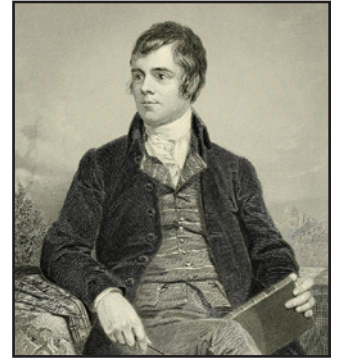
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24. What team did Scotland play in the first international soccer (football) match ever played?

Answer: England. The historic match was played on a cricket field in the city of Glasgow. The game drew in 4,000 spectators and ended in a 0–0 draw.

25. What is Scotland’s national flower: the bluebell, orchid, or thistle?

Answer: The thistle. There is a legend that says when a Norse army journeyed to ambush Scotland, the soldiers removed their shoes to remain unheard. However, when they stepped on the thistle flowers, their screams of pain alerted the Scots of their presence.

26. What famous Scottish-born industrialist and philanthropist made his millions from the steel industry?

Answer: Andrew Carnegie. **Fun Fact:** One of Carnegie’s philanthropic endeavors created a \$125 million trust to research how television could be used to educate underprivileged children. What came of this was the iconic TV program *Sesame Street*.

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Answer: Mary Stuart, aka Mary, Queen of Scots or Mary I. She was the only child of King James V of Scotland and his wife, Mary of Guise from France.

28. What famous song was written by Robert Burns and is often sung on New Year’s Eve?

Answer: “Auld Lang Syne.” The title translates into English as “Old Long Since.”

29. What is the name of the Scottish soup that consists of leeks and peppered chicken stock and is often thickened with rice?

Answer: Cock-a-leekie soup. Cock-a-leekie soup was one of the soups of the day on the *Titanic’s* menu the day that it sank.



30. What is the official dog of Scotland?

Answer: Scottish terrier. The Scottish terrier, or Scottie, originated in Aberdeen, Scotland, and was bred to chase fox, rabbit, and other den animals. One of the most famous Scotties was President Franklin Roosevelt’s dog Fala.



Whiskey



Bagpipes



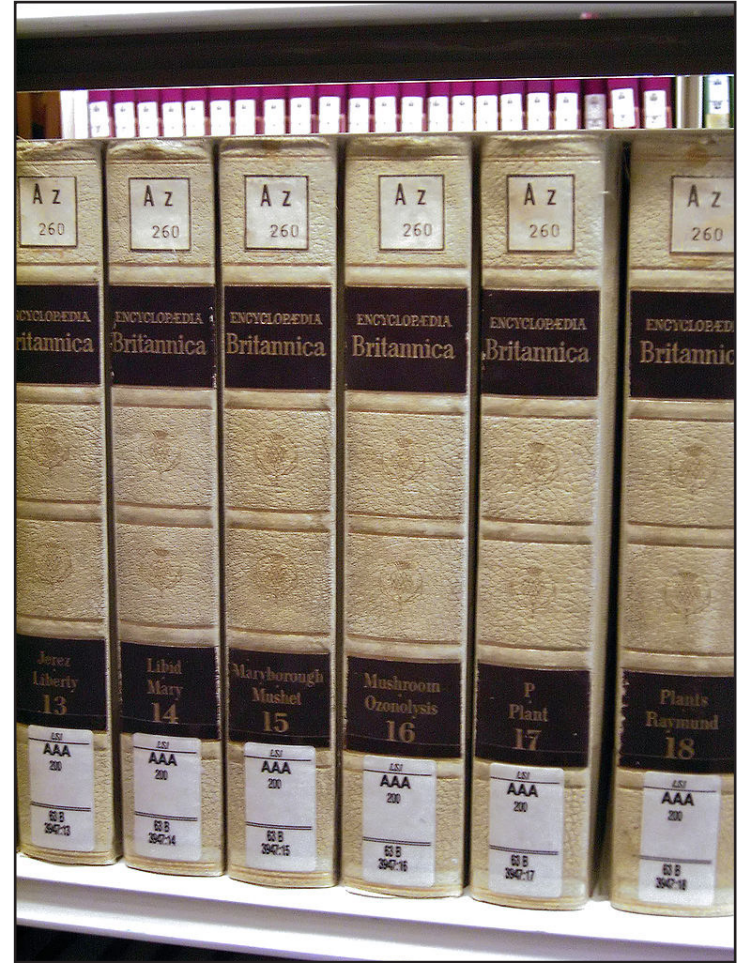
Unicorn



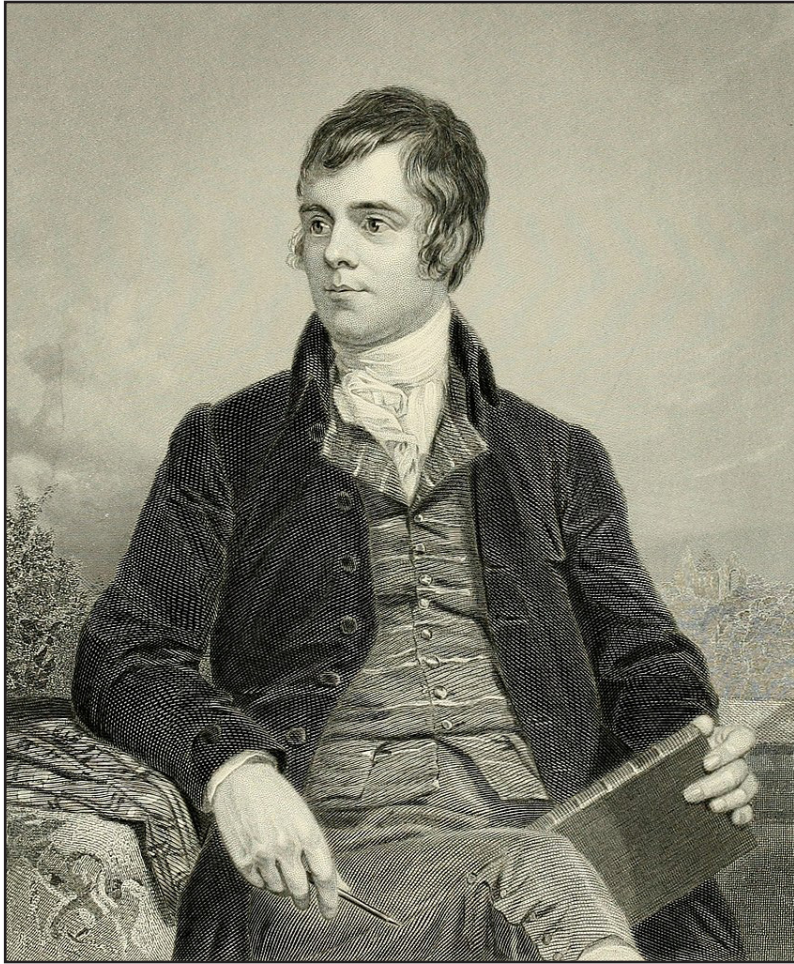
Haggis



The Scottish Highland Games



Encyclopedia Britannica



Robert Burns



Cock-a-Leekie Soup

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(Questions Only)

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