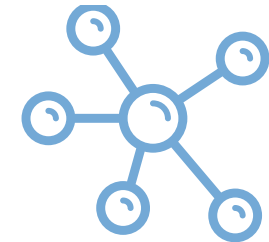


The United Kingdom: Scotland



Quick summary



Scotland is one of the four countries of the United Kingdom (UK). It is also part of Great Britain, which includes Wales and England. It has a population of around 5.5 million. Scotland has seven cities and many rural areas. Its capital city is Edinburgh. The official language is English. People from Scotland are known as Scottish, not Scotch. The national flag is the Saltire or St Andrew's Cross, named after its patron saint, St Andrew. The national emblem is the thistle. Although part of the UK, Scotland also has its own parliament for local matters.



Location

Scotland lies to the north of England with the counties of Berwickshire, Roxburghshire and Dumfriesshire along the border. The most northerly point is Muckle Flugga lighthouse which is off the island of Unst in the Shetland archipelago, which is 110 miles (177 km) to the north east of the mainland. Shetland marks the boundary between the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the North Sea to the east.



Physical features

Scotland has lowlands, uplands, highlands and islands. The highest peak is Ben Nevis and there are 283 munros. The Scottish word for lake is loch and Scotland has a number of large lochs, the most well-known being Loch Ness, famous for the legend of the Loch Ness monster, Nessie. The highlands and islands are very remote and have very few inhabitants.



Human features

Scotland has only seven cities, the largest of which is Edinburgh, followed by Glasgow. There are also many smaller towns and villages with a range of roads and transport networks linking them together. Houses, shops, leisure centres, theatres, cinemas and restaurants occupy cities but most of the land in the country is rural.



Diversity

One of the most striking aspects of diversity in Scotland is the huge difference in the nature of the landscape in the lowlands and the highlands and islands.



Vocabulary

rural: relating to the countryside
emblem: badge or symbol
archipelago: a group of islands
peak: the pointed top of a mountain
munros: mountains over 3000 feet (914 metres)
legend: a story from long ago which may or may not be true
remote: far away and hard to get to
inhabitants: people living in a place



Location



Physical features



Human features



Diversity



Physical processes



Human processes



Techniques

