Scotland is a **country** located in the **northern part** of the **United Kingdom**. It shares a **land border** with **England** to the south and is otherwise surrounded by the **Atlantic Ocean**, the **North Sea**, and the **Irish Sea**. Scotland is made up of the **mainland** and more than **790 islands**, including the **Hebrides**, **Orkney**, and **Shetland** islands.

The **capital city** of Scotland is **Edinburgh**, known for its **historic architecture**, **Edinburgh Castle**, and the **Royal Mile**. Edinburgh hosts the world-famous **Edinburgh Festival Fringe**, which is the largest **arts festival** in the world. The largest city is **Glasgow**, a cultural hub for **music**, **art**, and **design**. Other notable cities include **Aberdeen**, **Dundee**, and **Inverness**.

Scotland is divided into **Lowlands** and **Highlands**, with the Highlands being famous for their **dramatic landscapes**, **mountains**, and **lochs** (the Scottish word for lakes). The highest peak in the UK, **Ben Nevis**, is located in the Scottish Highlands. One of the most famous lochs is **Loch Ness**, which is said to be home to the legendary **Loch Ness Monster** or "Nessie."

The **national symbols** of Scotland include the **Saltire** (the white cross of Saint Andrew on a blue background), the **thistle** (a purple-flowered plant), and the **unicorn**, which is the country’s official **national animal**. The unicorn represents **purity**, **innocence**, and **power**.

Traditional Scottish culture includes **bagpipes**, **kilts**, and **ceilidhs** (social dances with music). The **Gaelic language**, once widely spoken across Scotland, is still preserved in some areas, particularly in the **Outer Hebrides**. The Scots language is also spoken alongside **English**.

Scotland has a rich **culinary tradition**, featuring iconic foods such as **haggis** (a savory pudding made from sheep’s offal), **shortbread** (a sweet buttery biscuit), and **tablet** (a crumbly fudge). Scotland is also famous for producing **Scotch whisky**, which is made in regions like **Speyside**, **Islay**, and the **Highlands**.

Wildlife in Scotland includes **red deer**, **golden eagles**, **otters**, and the elusive **Scottish wildcat**. The country’s natural environment is protected in several **national parks**, such as the **Cairngorms National Park** and **Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park**.

The **history** of Scotland is marked by significant events such as the **Wars of Independence** against England, led by figures like **William Wallace** and **Robert the Bruce**. The **Act of Union** in 1707 joined Scotland with England to form the **United Kingdom**, but Scotland retains its own **legal system**, **education system**, and **parliament** in Edinburgh.

Scotland’s economy is diverse, including sectors like **oil and gas**, **renewable energy**, **tourism**, **whisky production**, and **technology**. The country is also known for prestigious universities like the **University of Edinburgh**, **University of Glasgow**, and **University of St Andrews**.

Modern Scottish culture blends traditional heritage with innovation in **arts**, **film**, **literature**, and **music**. Famous Scots include **Alexander Graham Bell** (inventor of the telephone), **Alexander Fleming** (discovered penicillin), and authors like **Sir Walter Scott**, **Robert Burns**, and **J.K. Rowling**.