

AXE 5

UNIT 15

SHORT
CUT

UNFORGETTABLE HIGHLANDERS

Why are Scottish warriors still seen as heroes?



YOUR PROJECT

Netflix has decided to produce a film about a Scottish hero/heroine, based on a historical figure. Write a pitch of your story.

Au menu de cette unité :

DÉCOUVERTES CULTURELLES

- ✗ *Outlander* : du roman de Diana Gabaldon à la série
- ✗ *Outlaw King* : du roman de Julie Johnstone au film
- ✗ Des figures tutélaires : William Wallace et Robert the Bruce

OUTILS LINGUISTIQUES

- ✗ Le présent simple
- ✗ Le passé composé en *be + -ing*
- ✗ Le *present perfect*

BEFORE CLASS!

Flash to watch!

Watch the video about Scotland and be ready to talk about it in class!



① Travelling Back to the 18th Century

Is Scotland a romantic set for heroes?

1 Fallen through time ⚡

- A. Watch the trailer for the adaptation of Diana Gabaldon's bestseller *Outlander*. Take notes on the characters, periods, places and events.
B. Using the trailer, tell Claire's story before and after her time travel. What can you guess about her encounter with the young Highlander?



2 A Scottish wedding 📝

- A. Read the text with the help of [Worksheet n°45](#). Sum up Claire and Jamie's situation in your own words.
B. What image of the Highlander is given in this excerpt? Justify by quoting the text.



Trapped in 18th-century Scotland, Claire is threatened by an English soldier who wants to arrest her for spying. To save her life, she has to become a Scottish citizen by marrying a Scotsman, Jamie Fraser.

It was a "warm" Scottish day, meaning that the mist wasn't quite heavy enough to qualify as a drizzle¹, but not far off, either. Suddenly the inn door opened, and the sun came out, in the person of James. If I was a radiant bride, the groom⁵ was resplendent. My mouth fell open and stayed that way. A Highlander in full regalia² is an impressive sight – any Highlander, no matter how old, ill-favored, or crabbed³ in appearance. A tall, straight-bodied, and by no means ill-favored young Highlander at close range is breath-taking.

¹⁰ The thick, red-gold hair had been brushed to a smooth gleam that swept the collar of a fine lawn shirt with tucked front,

HELP!

- **manly** = strong / sturdy
- **courtly** = elegant
- **courteous** /kɔ:tisəs/ = well-mannered
- **awe-inspiring** /'ɔ:wɪnspərɪŋ/
- **romantic**

belled sleeves, and lace-trimmed wrist frills that matched the cascade of the starched jabot at the throat, decorated with a ruby stickpin.

¹⁵ His tartan⁴ was a brilliant crimson⁵ and black that blazed among the more sedate MacKenzies in their green and white. The flaming wool, fastened by a circular silver brooch, fell from his right shoulder in a graceful drape, caught by a silver-studded sword⁶ belt before continuing its sweep past neat
²⁰ calves clothed in woolen hose and stopping just short of the silver-buckled black leather boots. Sword, dirk and badger-skin sporran completed the ensemble.

Well over six feet tall, broad in proportion, and striking of feature, he was a far cry from the grubby horse-handler I
²⁵ was accustomed to – and he knew it. Making a leg in courtly fashion, he swept me a bow of impeccable grace, murmuring "Your servant, Ma'am," eyes glinting with mischief.

"Oh," I said faintly.

1. a very light rain • 2. /rɪ'geɪliə/ in full formal dress •
3. unpleasant • 4. a woolen cloth worn by
the Scottish Highlanders • 5. deep red • 6. /sɔ:d/ épée

Outlander,
Diana Gabaldon, 1991



2 Fighting for Freedom

How has Scotland shaped the Highland hero?

1

The figure of the Highland hero

A. Read the text. What are the Highlander's main qualities, according to the journalist?

The Scottish hero has a different, very distinct appeal than other heroes. As a writer and a reader, there's nothing more intriguing than a Highland hero. Its association by terrain, by culture, and by sound. Scotland is a land of rugged¹, timeless beauty and wind-swept moors², resilient³ against centuries of subjugation⁴. The terrain makes Scottish heroes hard, tough and robust. Their culture makes them proud, fearless and loyal. In my opinion, a Highlander is the ultimate alpha male, confident in his own power and appreciative of the strength in his woman... His deep, melodic burr⁵ doesn't hurt his appeal either.

Other writers agree that the hero embodies the land, and that readers want that association with Scotland itself. [...] The Highlander has become the image the readers have when looking for a Scottish romance, that big, strapping hero in his plaid with his broadsword, that challenging but beautiful countryside behind

B. Go further. Does the image of the Scottish hero match your idea of what a hero should be? Why (not)?

him. The history of the Highlander and the clans is what makes a Highland hero different from the other alpha heroes as it adds a rich depth to him from the moment he strides onto the page. [...]. The Scottish hero is usually fighting against terrible odds⁶, reflecting true history. We love this hero for his unfailing courage in facing the powerful forces aligned against him and for his loyalty to his woman, his family and his clan. The Scottish hero also has the advantage of being surrounded by strong women who challenge and tease him. Not only will the heroine have a spirit to match his, but his mother and sisters and the old women of his clan all seem ready to set him straight when they think he needs it.

1 /'rʌɡɪd/ = rough /rʌf/, austere /ɔ:'stɪər/ • 2 landes • 3 résistant • 4 servitude • 5 countryside accent • 6 tout est contre lui

Madeline Hunter, *USA Today*, 13 August 2014

2 How the Highlander hero came to be

- A. Read the text. Find some clichés about the Scottish Highlander.
B. Turn to Worksheet n°46 to learn about Robert the Bruce, William Wallace and Black Agnes.
C. Where does the Scots' reputation for being fearsome come from?
D. Go further. What part did Walter Scott play in the creation of the Scottish hero?

Picture in your mind's eye the Scottish Highlands: the gorgeous lochs, the dramatic landscapes... the fearsome, swoon-worthy¹, kilted men. From 19th century popular fiction to Hollywood blockbusters, audiences of the world have been enraptured² by the rugged image of the highlander. But what are the true origins of this legendary man? The birth of this hero can be traced back to 1296, when English forces invaded Scotland and sparked³ the Wars of Scottish Independence. The conflict went on until the early 14th century with neither side able to claim decisive victory. From this dark and bloody time, however, several brave Scots became renowned for their bravery. One of the most famous Scots of that period was the patriotic knight⁴ William Wallace, who defeated the English army at the Battle of Stirling Bridge and later became the inspiration for the 1995 film *Braveheart*. Perhaps less famous but certainly no less important was 'Black Agnes', the Countess of Dunbar who successfully repelled English troops when they tried to seize Dunbar Castle. Finally in 1357, Scotland once again emerged as a sovereign nation,

HELP!

Nouns

- patriot /'patriət/
- hero /'hɪərəʊ/, heroine /'herəʊɪn/

Adjectives

- fictional
- brutal

- patriotic
- victorious
- heroic /hɪ'reʊɪk/

Verbs & expressions

- stand up for sth = defend
- stand up to sb = oppose sb

thanks to the heroic efforts of Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn. Robert was crowned king, and the Scots thus gained a reputation for being ferocious warriors.

Unfortunately, by the 19th century, Scotland was once more a subject nation to England, and many of its cultural traditions were on the brink of extinction — until Sir Walter Scott stepped onto the scene. Born in Edinburgh, Scott was a respected historian and writer as well as a fierce⁵ advocate of Scottish culture. In 1814, he penned a historical romance titled *Waverley*, which became a huge success. *Waverley* and Scott's subsequent novels, such as *Rob Roy* and *Ivanhoe*, remain important works in the canon of Scottish literature, and did much to establish the legend of the fearsome, dashing highlander that continues to capture our imagination to this day.

1 ici, beau à défaillir • 2 émerveiller • 3 start • 4 chevalier • 5 ferocious

Deborah Chu, *The Myth and Romance of the Highlander*, 2019.

3 The King of Scots

- A. Read the text, focusing on Robert the Bruce and Laird Niall Campbell's feelings.
 B. Pick out the elements related to fright and brutality. What atmosphere is created by the author?
 C. Is Robert the Bruce's character a true leader? Justify.

1296, Northern Scotland. Fierce Scottish warrior Robert the Bruce, the rightful heir to the Scottish throne, would do anything to free his country from English rule and claim the throne.

Revolt had its own scent. It was one of burning wood and flesh, fetid wounds and rancid sweat, and it lay heavy in the air. Robert the Bruce, Earl of Carrick, smelled it with every breath he took.

“Rebellion surrounds us,” Laird¹ Niall Campbell said, pride ringing in his voice.

Bright-orange flames leaped into the sky from the destroyed guard towers that flanked the raised drawbridge² to Andrew Moray’s castle, which Robert had been commanded to invade.

Commanded. The word reverberated in his head, making his temples throb³. He glanced to his friend who sat mounted beside him.

“We will be hunted,” Robert added.

“Let them try to catch us,” Niall said with a smirk. “The devil English king will nae stop until he sits on the throne of Scotland. He will kill all who continue to rebel, and that includes our people. I’d rather be hunted than aligned with King Edward.”

“We will be outlaws, enemies of Edward.”

“Shut up, Robbie,” Niall growled, using the nickname only those close to him dared use. “Quit trying to dissuade me. Ye need me.”

“I do, but yer wife and yer daughter—”

“My wife will dance a jig when she hears we’ve taken up arms with our countrymen [...]. Tell me what ye want me to do.”

Robert contemplated that very question. He needed to be canny⁴ and proceed in the best way to protect his men. The wind blew from the west, sending billows of white smoke and heat toward them and de Burgh – the king’s closest friend and advisor- who was mounted on his steed⁵,



Robert the Bruce statue and William Wallace Monument from Stirling Castle

some thirty paces ahead of them. De Burgh looked away, but Robert faced the wind. He, too, would suffer every hardship he demanded his men to endure, and most of the men who had ridden here on his command were in the path of the smoke. It burned his throat, nose, and eyes, making breathing nearly impossible.

Death by fire would be an awful way to die.

¹ Lord • ² pont-levis • ³ palpiter • ⁴ clever • ⁵ war horse

Outlaw King
(Renegade Scots Book 1),
Julie Johnstone, 2018



YOUR TURN! 4 You are the writer!

What happens next? Imagine a continuation to the text above (in 100-150 words).

HELP!

Nouns

- (bad) omen = (bad) sign

Adjectives

- discouraged
- strong-willed = determined
- close-at-hand = imminent

Iconic Films, Iconic Heroes

How are movies re-inventing Scottish figures?

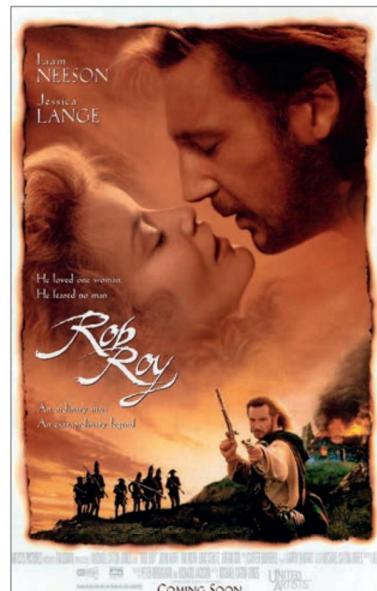
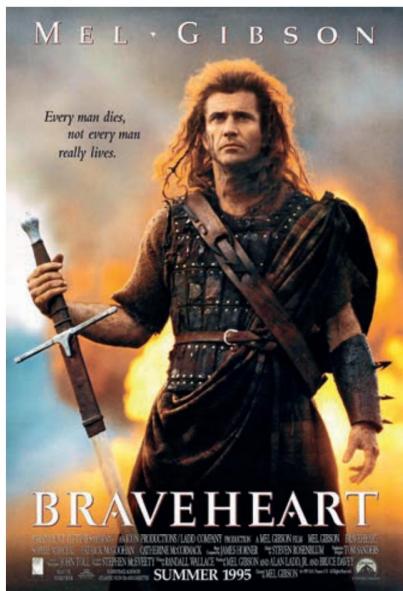
1 Film Web Research

A. Browse IMDb. Read the synopses and watch the trailers of the following films: *Rob Roy* (1995), *Braveheart* (1995) and *Outlaw King* (2018).

B. Take notes about the three films. Organise them in a table.

Characters	Plot	Film
Real? Fictional? Physical / moral traits?	Historical events? Dates?	Genre? Atmosphere? Impressions on the viewer?

C. Have your say. Which film do you prefer? Why?



2 An actor's experience

A. Listen to the interview of a famous Scottish actor on How does he feel about playing his character? Why?

B. Go further. How can a film or a series help to revive a culture?

HELP!

Nouns

- a biopic /baɪəʊpɪk/
- a scene
- a character

Adjectives

- heroic
- entertaining
- exciting
- melodramatic
- breathtaking
- captivating
- powerful
- romantic

- passionate
- overwhelming
- epic

Expressions

- immerse oneself in the world of
- the story unfolds in ... / is set in ...
- reach a climax
- the music conveys a ...
- unexpected events / plot twists

YOUR PROJECT

Due to the success of *Outlander*, Netflix has decided to produce a film about a Scottish hero/heroine, based on a historical figure. Write a pitch of your story to convince them to finance your film. Briefly describe the plot, the main character and his/her adventure. Do not forget to cast the actors for the leading roles!

LANGUAGE LAB



- Unit's vocabulary
- Audio words
- MP3
- Interactive Test

★ 1. Match each word with its synonym.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| A. stand up for | 1. strong-willed |
| B. stand up to | 2. sturdy |
| C. determined | 3. impressive |
| D. strong | 4. oppose |
| E. awe-inspiring | 5. defend |

★ 2. Give positive answers to these questions with a sentence.

- A. Did it freeze in the Highlands last night?
 B. Did she speak Scots to him?
 C. Did they spell 'Ivanhoe' correctly?
 D. Did they know about the old Scottish legend?

★★ 3. Make a noun or an adjective with the elements below. Check in the dictionary.

- A. strength (noun) → ... (adj.)
 B. fictional (adj.) → ... (noun)
 C. brutal (adj.) → ... (noun)
 D. patriotic (adj.) → ... (noun)
 E. victorious (adj.) → ... (noun)
 F. loyal (adj.) → ... (noun)
 G. rebel (noun) → ... (adj.)

★★ 4. Put the verbs in the appropriate tense (preterite or present perfect).

- A. They (**sign**) the Act of Union in 1707.
 B. The Scots and the English never (**get on**) very well.
 C. He (**become**) king and then (**declare**) war on England.
 D. They always (**eat**) haggis.
 E. The Scots always (**be**) allied to the French.

★★★ 5. Add an expression from the list below to make meaningful sentences.

- awe-inspiring • omen • wage war against sb • warriors
 • fight to the death • respect
 A. Scottish Highlanders were said to be fierce
 B. Battles against the English often meant
 C. Highlanders the British King to protect their land.
 D. Silence just before the battle was always regarded as a bad
 E. Braveheart and Robert the Bruce were ... and commanded

★★★ 6. Choose between the preterite and the preterite be + -ing

- A. They (**have**) a good time when suddenly the British soldiers (**storm in**).
 B. A barrel of powder (**explode**) while he (**play**) the bagpipes.
 C. They (**abduct**) Claire while she (**have**) a stroll in the forest.
 D. They (**starve**) to death when the war (**break out**).
 E. He (**leave**) his house when he realised he (**not wear**) his sporran.

7. Interactive test! What is your score?

OPEN YOUR EARS!

TRAVEL WITH ACCENTS!

Le « standard Scottish English » est une variation de l'anglais britannique standard.

1. Écoutez ce passage dit par un Écossais. Puis écoutez-le dans un anglais standard britannique. Prêtez attention aux éléments en gras. Quelles différences entendez-vous ?



"The Highlands are **no place** for a woman to be alone. You'd **do well** to remember that!"

2. Récapitulons.

- La diphongue /əʊ/ est réalisée comme [o] dans no et alone.
- Le son /r/ est parfois réalisé de manière roulée [r], comme dans for a woman, parfois non, comme dans remember.
- Le /er/ de place est prononcé [e]. Très souvent, en effet, il n'y a pas d'opposition voyelle longue/voyelle courte en écossais standard, et l'on prononce un son intermédiaire.

AUDIO MYSTERY

Listen and guess who the speaker is talking about. What is the mystery word? **MP3 n°88**



Motto challenge

- ★ 3 sentences
- ★★ 4 to 6 sentences
- ★★★ 7 sentences and +

Read the following Scottish clans' mottos. Make as many sentences as you can to answer the following question: What do these mottos reveal about the Highlander culture?

Fraser: JE SUIS PREST = I am ready

Gunn: AUT PAX AUT BELLUM = Either peace or war

Lindsay: ENDURE FORT = Endure with strength

Macalister: FORTITER = Boldly

MacAulay: DULCE PERICULUM = Danger is sweet

MacDougall: BUADH NO BAS = Victory or death

McEwen: REVIRESCO = I grow strong again

Mackenzie: LUCEO NON URO = I shine not burn

MacLachlan: FORTIS ET FIDUS = Strong and faithful