

Destination UK: Scotland

Topic

Scotland

Aims

- To practise reading skills
- To practise speaking skills
- To practise question formation
- To practise writing skills with a short description

Age group

12- adult

Level

B1/ B2

Time

60 – 90 minutes

Materials

1. Destination UK: Scotland student worksheet
2. Internet links: <http://www.visitscotland.com/> - Visit Scotland's website
<http://www.scotland.org/about-scotland/facts-about-scotland/> - Facts and figures about Scotland
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taransay> - More information about Taransay
http://www.bbc.co.uk/alba/foghlam/learn_gaelic/index.shtml - BBC site for learning Gaelic
<http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/1877633/vegetarian-haggis> - Vegetarian haggis recipe
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/edinburgh-is-only-british-city-named-in-top-25-global-destinations-1-802594> - Edinburgh as popular tourist attraction

Introduction

This Essential UK lesson plan is part of four entitled Destination UK. They look at the four countries that make up the United Kingdom. This one gives learners an insight into life in Scotland.

As an introduction students are asked to brainstorm what they know about Scotland and draw a mind map of their ideas. Task 1 is a quiz and Task 2 takes a look at one of Scotland's languages – Gaelic. Task 3 is a reading task about living in Scotland and Task 4 is based on one of the early reality TV shows called Castaway that took place in the year 2000 on the Scottish isle of Taransay. Task 5 looks at Scotland's national dish, the haggis, and asks students to write about a national dish from their own country.

Procedure

1. Introduce the topic: Brainstorm	<p>Ask your students to listen carefully to you in order to guess what the lesson is going to be about today. Give clues about Scotland until somebody guesses correctly. Grade the task according to your students' level of English and their knowledge of geography!</p> <p>Then write SCOTLAND on the board and ask students to tell you whatever they may know about the country. Ask students to write their ideas around the word to make a mind-map.</p>
2. Task 1 – Scotland Quiz	<p>This is a quiz about Scotland to get your students interested in learning more about the country. Put students into small groups or teams if you want to make the quiz into a competition. For higher levels you could read the quiz out to them instead of giving each group a copy, to make a reading task into a more challenging listening activity.</p> <p><i>Answers:</i> 1 – c, 2 - b, 3 - a, 4 - c, 5 – a (a sporran is a purse or pouch that is also part of traditional Scottish Highland dress), 6 – c, 7 – b, 8 – c, 9 – b (Gaelic and Scots), 10 - a</p>
3. Task 3 – Get to grips with Gaelic!	<p>Don't panic, this isn't a task to teach your students Gaelic. It's simply to raise students' awareness that English isn't the only language spoken in Britain. There are groups of people who are fighting hard to keep minority languages such as Gaelic or Cornish alive. Here students can look at a few words in Scottish Gaelic and then discuss the questions below about minority languages. Encourage them to give reasons for their opinions.</p>
4. Task 4 –UK in focus reading task: Living in Scotland	<p>This is a reading task with a text from the British Council's UK in Focus website. Students should work in pairs to do the task. They should read the text and then produce the questions to the answers that are given.</p> <p><i>Answers:</i> Q1) How many inhabited islands are there in Scotland? A1) 130. Q2) Which is the largest city in Scotland? A2) Glasgow. Q3) Name two famous Scottish bands? A3) Travis and Franz Ferdinand Q4) When did Scotland get its own parliament? A4) 1999 Q5) Which industry in Scotland is currently growing? A5) The computer games industry. Q6) When was Edinburgh voted by travellers to be one of the top 25 favourite places to</p>

visit in the world? A6) 2010

**5. Task 5 –
Castaway**

In the year 2000 the BBC conducted a ‘social experiment’ by putting 36 men, women and children on an extremely remote island of Scotland called Taransay. They filmed the progress of the participants who lived in complete isolation as a community for a year. You could compare it to the reality shows that now invade the TV, such as Big Brother or Survival. Have a look at the websites about the island and print some pictures to show your students so they will see what the island looks like.

Then tell them that there is going to be a new series of Castaway and the BBC are looking for volunteers. First, ask students to think about the advantages and disadvantages of taking part and living on a remote Scottish island for a year.

Then tell students to discuss the questions in groups to decide who would be the best person to take part in the show.

**6. Task 6 –
Haggis:
Scotland’s
national dish**

This task looks at Scotland’s national dish, the haggis. People from other parts of the UK find the ingredients a little strange, so your students may be surprised by the recipe. Ask them to read the ingredients – you may have to help with vocabulary – and then read the method and the section about when it’s eaten. Use students’ reactions to the dish to develop discussion about unusual things they have eaten or their favourite food. Using the information about haggis as a guide, students then write about one of their national dishes.

Contributed by

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