



Teaching about Scotland

This is one of a series of units for teaching about Scotland in German Secondary schools. All the materials were created by very motivated students in my Area Studies Scotland class, some with experience of teaching in a “Gymnasium“. The materials can be tried out as they are, or altered as desired. One basic idea behind them all is that both the teacher and the learners can develop the materials themselves, according to their own interests, and then even offer them to another class.

For some of these units printed information material is needed, for example ferry timetables, but if you don't have this, it is no problem to print it out from the Internet. Useful websites are given.

Discover Scotland

Target group and Aim.

The unit is intended for an 8th grade class (age 13 - 14) of a German Secondary school and covers two lessons (90 minutes).

The goal is to give the class an idea of what they could do as visitors to Scotland. Their task, in groups, is to plan a short, active holiday in Scotland.

All the materials necessary are provided here.

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Course: Area Studies Scotland

Activities.

I. First, a question for the class:

What do you associate with “Scotland”? Anything at all?

Everyone is invited to write down – or draw - their associations on a big poster, which can be pinned on the board or wall at the end of the unit.

2. There is a map pinned on the board now, but it is only an outline of Scotland, blank except for the rivers.

Each member of the class gets a card with a brief description of either a city/town, a loch or an island, reads it out loud and tries to find the right place on the map to pin the card. If they don't know where it goes, they can help each other.

Everyone then gets a copy of the blank map to fill in themselves with the names of the places above.

3. The class splits up into groups (of five).

There are five piles of new cards on a table: Highland Games, Festivals, Cities/Towns, Mystery and Sports. Each group takes one card from each pile. (See cards for further information.)

The instructions are:

Plan a 5-day trip, using the information given on the cards and the timetables of trains, buses, ferries etc. provided.

This way they have the opportunity to plan their own trip, find out about Scottish towns and cities, sports activities, the beautiful landscape and Scottish traditions.

4. The groups plan their trips through Scotland keeping in mind the limitations of time and public transport. Each group gets a large poster to write down/draw their itinerary.

5. Every group can show/tell the others about the trip they have planned. They might like to vote for the best, the trip they would most like to go on.

6. It could be really interesting at the end to take a look at the poster of associations made at the beginning and compare it with what they know now.

What is on the first cards

Ardrossan: Ardrossan is a town located on the Ayrshire coast in western Scotland. The “ard” in the name comes from Gaelic and means “high”.

Inverness: It’s known as the ‘city in the Highlands’, and is located on the coast at the North Sea. The town takes its name from the River Ness.

Helmsdale: Helmsdale is a village on the east coast of the Highland region of Scotland. Originally founded in the nineteenth century as a fishing port, it lies on the River Helmsdale, known for gold prospecting.

Aberdeen: “Aberdeen is whatever you want it to be.” It’s Scotland’s third largest city and the main port for North Sea oil operations.

Durness: Durness is not the most north westerly point on mainland Scotland, but it is certainly the most north westerly village.

Glasgow: Glasgow is Scotland’s largest city. Glasgow promotes itself as ‘Scotland with Style’. It has a good reputation for architecture and design, and is the biggest shopping centre in the UK after London.

Outer Hebrides: The Hebrides (pronounced Heb-rid-is) are the islands off the north west coast of Scotland. Of these islands the Outer Hebrides, a whole chain of islands, are the furthest west.

Skye: The Isle of Skye, usually known simply as Skye is the largest and most northerly island in the Inner Hebrides of Scotland. It’s the second largest island in Scotland. Skye has some of the most dramatic and challenging mountain terrain in Scotland.

Edinburgh: Scotland’s capital. It’s the site of the famous International Festival which always takes place in summer. Located in the South-East of Scotland.

Fort William: It is the southern gateway to the great Glen Nevis and to the far West.

Loch Ard: Loch Ard is in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs (pronounced like in German) National Park of the Stirling District in Scotland. The name of the loch comes from *àrd*, the Gaelic word for *high*

Mallaig: Mallaig is a port on the west coast of the Highlands of Scotland. It lies at the end of the evocatively named "Road to the Isles." It is also the terminus for the West Highland Railway from Fort William.

Loch Lomond: Measuring twenty-seven and a half square miles, Loch Lomond is the largest single inland waterway in Britain. There are 37 islands in the loch. Loch Lomond (pronounced LOW-mond) is a Scottish loch (or lake) located in both the western lowlands of Central Scotland and the southern Highlands.

Loch Ness: There are four lochs in the Great Glen, with Loch Ness by far the most famous. It is said to be home to *Nessie*, a monstrous creature first sighted by St Columba in the 6th Century. Loch Ness (Scottish Gaelic: *Loch Nis*) is a large, deep freshwater lake in the Scottish Highlands, extending for approximately 37 km (23 miles) southwest of Inverness.

Inner Hebrides: The Inner Hebrides are a group of islands off the west coast of Scotland, to the south east of the Outer Hebrides. They are part of the Hebrides. Traditionally, the Inner Hebrides have been divided into two groups, the Southern and the Northern Isles.

Dundee: Dundee is one of the UK's top cities for design and architecture. The city is on the east coast, north of Edinburgh and is an important sea-port.

North West Highlands: This is a remote and wild area of Scotland and has some breathtaking scenery.

Orkney Islands: Orkney is a group of 67 islands lying off the north east coast of Scotland. Only about a third of the islands are inhabited.

Isle of Mull: Mull is a wildly beautiful island, accessible by ferry, off the west coast of Scotland.

Shetland Islands: They are the northernmost islands of Scotland and lie north of the Orkneys.

Sources:

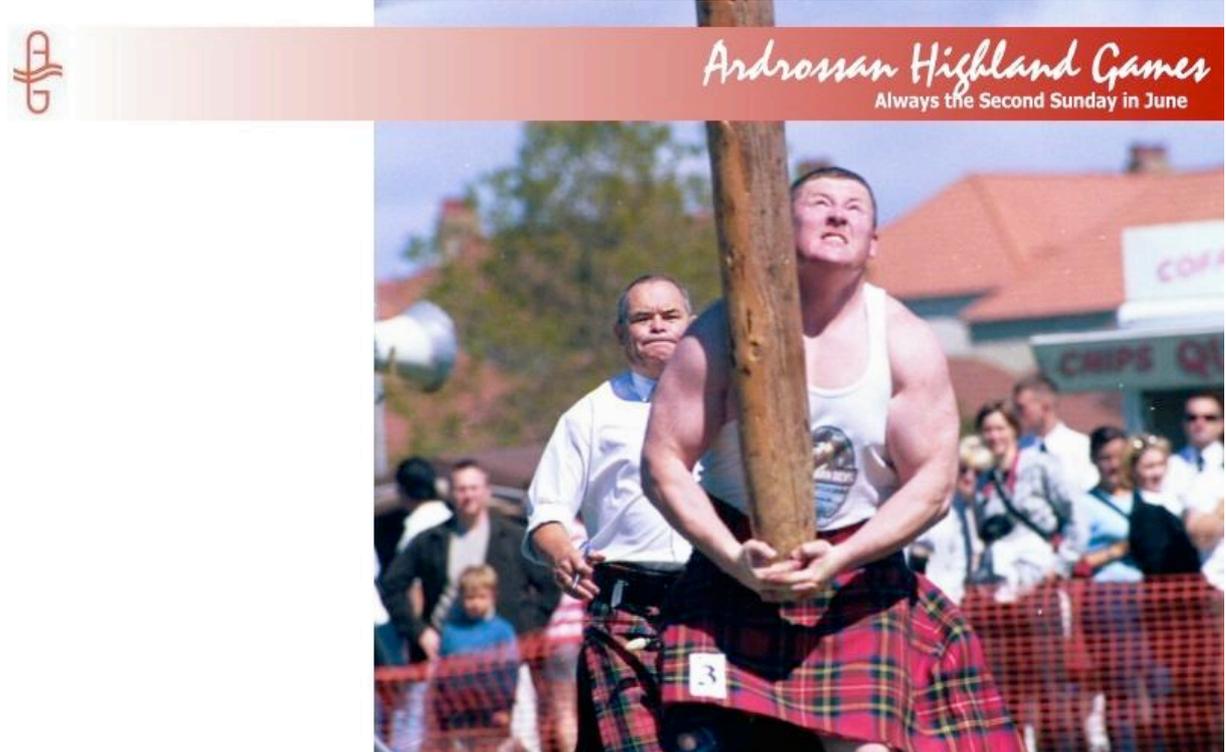
<http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>

What is on the second set of cards.

(1) Highland Games

1.1



An unlikely but interesting and attractive combination of Camels - yes, Camels - and Highland Games is what awaits people attending this year's **Ardrossan Highland Games** on **Sunday 12th June** at Lighdykes Playing Fields.

Source:
<http://www.ardrossanhighlandgames.com>

1.2



City of Inverness Highland Games	When: 11.00pm - 6.00pm, 23rd July 2005 Where: Bught Park, Inverness
The largest Highland games in the Highlands. Set on the banks of the River Ness, the Inverness games features heavy events, Highland dancing, piping and traditional music, stalls, aerobatics and parachute displays.	

Source:
<http://www.invernesshighlandgames.com>

1.3



Helmsdale and District Highland Games	When: 10.00am - 5.00pm, 20th August 2005 Where: Couper Park, Helmsdale
Piping, local and junior heavy events open the games, followed by a massed pipe band parade at noon - leading on to the raising of the games flag and the installation of the new Chieftain. Junior/youth hill race and Scottish Championship hill race. The games close with pipe bands and vintage car parade to the village.	

Source:
<http://www.helmsdalegames.info>

1.4



Durness Highland Gathering	When: 11.00am - 4.00pm, 29th July 2005 Where: Shore Park, Durness
Highland dancing, piping, field and track events, heavy events, hill race, stalls and refreshments.	

Source:
<http://www.visitscotland.com/library/highlandgameshighlands05>

(2) Festivals

2.1 Live + Loud

When: 26th June 2005 Where: Glasgow



It wouldn't be summer without a big outdoor concert in Glasgow, and Scotland's biggest pop party, Live + Loud, returns to Hampden Park with some of the biggest names in pop. Around 30,000 screaming fans will cram into the National Stadium to worship the A-list of contemporary British pop. A huge line-up of bands and singers have already been confirmed for the event, including Rooster, Daniel Bedingfield, Rachel Stevens, Lemar and Charlotte Church.

Source:

<http://www.visitscotland.com/sitewide/summerofmusic>

2.2 T in the Park

When: 9th - 10th July 2005 Where: Balado Airfield



Now in its twelfth year, T in the Park has grown in size and influence to become one of the most critically acclaimed music events on the international festival circuit, as well as Scotland's most popular outdoor event. With over 120 artists performing across 8 stages over 2 days, T in the Park consistently attracts the finest homegrown talent alongside major international artists. This year's line up includes the Foo Fighters, Travis, Snoop Dogg, Joss Stone, Beautiful South, Keane, Prodigy, New Order and The Streets.

Source:

<http://www.visitscotland.com/sitewide/summerofmusi>

2.3 Hebridean Celtic Festival

When: 13th - 16th July 2005 Where: Outer Hebrides



A unique four-day musical celebration held in the stunning Hebrides of Scotland. Proclaimed the best festival of its kind, this award-winning event celebrates its tenth anniversary year in 2005. The festival attracts artists and visitors from around the world, with over 14,000 people attending in 2004. This year's line up includes Van Morrison, Runrig, Shooglenifty, Xosé Manuel Budiño, Peatbog Faeries, Mark Saul, Blas, Fergie MacDonald, Seamus Begley and James Graham.

Source:

<http://www.visitscotland.com/sitewide/summerofmusic>

2.4 Skye Music Festival

When: 17th - 18th June 2005 Where: Skye



The event brings together some of the hottest names in dance, alternative rock, soul and contemporary Celtic. This year the festival shall be hosting the finest in national talent. With a line up that includes Mylo, Silicone Soul, Lottie, Idlewild, KT Tunstall and the Stranglers, opening at 5pm and finishing around 1am on both days, this event is not for the faint hearted.

Source:<http://www.visitscotland.com/sitewide/summerofmusic>

(3) Cities:

3.1 Aberdeen

Aberdeen is a beautiful city, with easy access to the countryside, fishing, golf and pony trekking. Youngsters will love the Children's Farm, the Maze and the mysteries of science in the Stratosphere. Visit local castles nearby or break your journey en route for Orkney and Shetland.

<p>Aberdeen 8 Queen's Road, Aberdeen, AB15 4ZT</p> <p>Hostel Tel: 0870 004 1100</p> <p>Central Bookings: 0870 1 55 32 55</p> <p>Map Reference: O.S.38 (GR 922058)</p>	<p>Facilities</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> 111</td> <td></td> <td> 0.25 mile</td> <td></td> <td> 1 mile</td> </tr> <tr> <td> nearby</td> <td></td> <td> 3 miles</td> <td> 8 miles</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> 	 111		 0.25 mile		 1 mile	 nearby		 3 miles	 8 miles		<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"></td> </tr> </table>						
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 nearby		 3 miles	 8 miles															
																		
																		
																		

Source:

<http://www.syha.org.uk/SYHAWeb/Site/Hostels/Aberdeen.asp>

3.2 Glasgow

Glasgow Youth Hostel, situated in the heart of the historic West End of the city, offers great value quality accommodation. All rooms are en-suite with good self-catering facilities available. Discover Glasgow's art galleries, glorious architecture, friendly culture, shopping and fantastic nightlife.

<p>Glasgow 8 Park Terrace, Glasgow, G3 6BY</p> <p>Hostel Tel: 0870 004 1119</p> <p>Central Bookings: 0870 1 55 32 55</p> <p>Map Reference: O.S.64 (GR 575662)</p>	<p>Facilities</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> 148</td> <td></td> <td> 0.5 mile</td> <td> 0.5 mile</td> <td> 1 mile</td> </tr> <tr> <td> 0.5 mile</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td> 12 miles</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> 	 148		 0.5 mile	 0.5 mile	 1 mile	 0.5 mile			 12 miles		<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"></td> </tr> </table>						
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 0.5 mile			 12 miles															
																		
																		
																		

Source:
<http://www.syha.org.uk/SYHA/Web/Site/Hostels/Glasgow.asp>

3.3 Inverness

Our modern and comfortable 5 star Hostel, with superb facilities in the capital of the Highlands, now offers VisitScotland-approved backpacker accommodation at prices you can afford. With a warm welcome and buzzing atmosphere the hostel is popular with guests from all over the world. Small rooms and excellent self-catering kitchens make it popular for groups and families.

<p>Inverness Victoria Drive, Inverness, IV2 3QB</p> <p>Hostel Tel: 0870 004 1127</p> <p>Central Bookings: 0870 1 55 32 55</p> <p>Map Reference: O.S.26 (GR 676456)</p>	<p>Facilities</p> <p>     166 nearby</p> <p>     nearby nearby 8 miles</p> 	    

Source:
<http://www.syha.org.uk/SYHAWeb/Site/Hostels/Inverness.a>

3.5 Edinburgh

Edinburgh's Bruntsfield Hostel is a haven for backpackers and independent travellers. Some rooms even offer views of Edinburgh Castle. The hostel is located overlooking parkland in a highly cosmopolitan, trendy suburb of Edinburgh. There is a wide range of cafes, bars and restaurants in this buzzing area.

Edinburgh Bruntsfield
7 Bruntsfield Cresc., Ed-
inburgh, EH10 4EZ

Hostel Tel: 0870 004
1114

Central Bookings: 0870
1 55 32 55

Map Reference: O.S.66
(GR 249720)

Facilities



126



nearby



2

miles



nearby



15
miles



6
miles



Source:

<http://www.syha.org.uk/SYHA/web/site/Hostels/EdinburghBruntsfield.asp>

(4) Mysteries:

4.1 Mystery in Edinburgh

City of the Dead Tours (Black Hart Entertainment) Ghost Tour



Address:

Greyfriars Funeral Bothy, 26B Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh, City of Edinburgh, EH1 2QE

Website: www.blackhart.uk.com

Description

History, humour and a graveyard trip to the locked lair of the "Mackenzie Poltergeist" - one of the best documented paranormal cases in history. 'Makes Blair Witch look tame' - Fox Family Channel..... 'Great entertainers' - Scotsman Newspaper..... 'Puts the city's other ghost tours in the shade' - Evening News..... 'Brilliant storytelling' - About Edinburgh.

Adult - £7; Concessions - £5.

Source:

<http://search.visitscotland.com/sitemakescotland>.

4.2 Mystery in Edinburgh

The Cadies and Witchery Tours Ghost Tour



Address:

84 West Bow, Victoria Street, Edinburgh, City of Edinburgh,
EH1 2HH

Website: www.witcherytours.com

Description

Witchery Tours take a light-hearted look at Edinburgh's dark side, including tales of witchcraft, plague and torture. You will explore the eerie alleyways and creepy courtyards of the Old Town with your ghostly guide, who will blend history with humour and facts with fables, while "jumper-ooters" provide guaranteed ghostly appearances.

Our haunted walking tours run every evening by appointment.

Source:

<http://search.visitscotland.com/sitemakescotland>.

4.3 Mystery in Edinburgh

Mercat Tours Ghost Tour



Mercat Tours

Address:

Mercat House , Niddry Street South, Edinburgh, City of Edinburgh, EH1 1NS

Website: www.mercattours.com

Description

Fascinating historic and ghostly tours - tales that bring the past alive and make your flesh creep! Visit the most extensive haunted vaults in Edinburgh. Optional pub visit available.

Source:

<http://search.visitscotland.com/sitemakescotland>.

4.5 Mystery – Harry Potter



The first film, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, used the fabulous scenery in **Glen Nevis**, by **Fort William**, as a backdrop for the Quidditch broomstick match scene while the second film *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* also had key scenes filmed in Lochaber. The most memorable of these was a spectacular aerial fly-through of Glenfinnan as Harry and his best friend, Ron, almost crash their magical flying Ford Anglia into the *The Hogwarts Express* train on the impressive expanse of the arched railway viaduct. You can experience your own magical train journey by taking a trip on The Jacobite Steam Train, which follows the famous Road to the Isles, between Fort William and Mallaig.

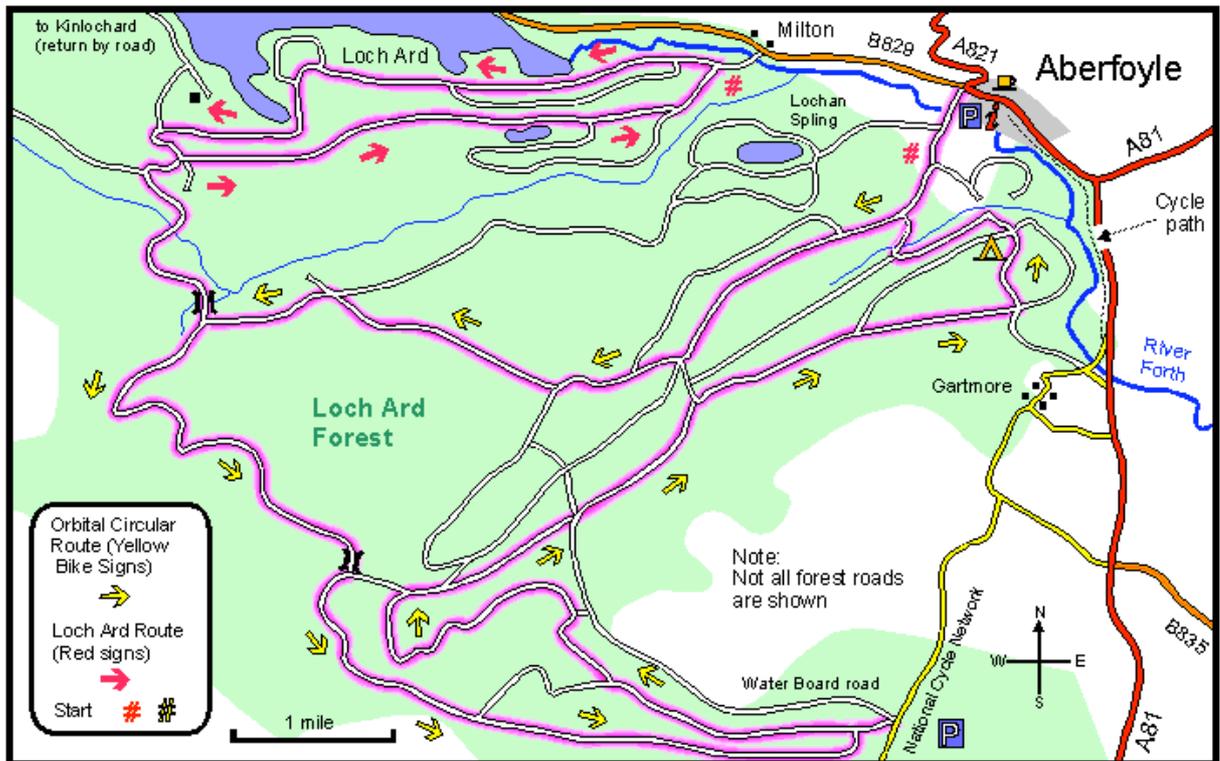
The filmic potential of this area has long been recognised by directors which has seen the likes of Alfred Hitchcock's *The Thirty Nine Steps*, *Highlander*, *Rob Roy* and *Braveheart* all being shot here.

Source:

<http://www.visitscotland.com/aboutscotland/explorebymap/features/harrypotter>

(5) Sports:

5.1 Loch Ard Forest Mountain Biking



Loch Ard Forest can be a good day out whatever your ability. The Loch Ard route is an easy cycle near to the loch. Fairly flat with fine views, it's an excellent option for young children.

The orbital route is more challenging with stiff climbs and steep descents. If these are taken quickly they need good reactions and well adjusted brakes! On the way there are excellent views towards Stirling and the Lake of Menteith (Scotland's only lake) and Ben Venue to the north.

Source:
<http://www.cyclingscotland.com/welcome.htm>

5.2

Sea Kayaking

No vessel allows you to see the sea quite so up close as a kayak. Scotland is one of the top destinations in the world for sea kayaking as not only does it boast awesome coastal scenery but it also has incredible marine and bird life.



Sea Kayaking with Canoe Hebrides.

West of Scotland, West Coast

With Scotland surrounded by stunning coastline it's a difficult call to make, but most kayakers head out to the West Coast for the wildlife spotting opportunities and the exploration around the islands. Go and look for **Mallaig**.

Source:

<http://adventure.visitscotland.com/activities/water/seakayaking/>

5.3

Hillwalking

The atmospheric hills of Scotland offer some of the best walking in the world and, with some 284 Scottish mountains (Munros) between 3000 and 4500 ft high plus 221 Corbetts and a rack of other fine peaks, these hills were made for walking.

Scotland is a country blessed with a landscape your feet will be itching to explore time and again. This is a land that boasts beauty and history in equal measure, a world where the sense and the feeling of wilderness is always just a step away. It's best explored on foot, and if you've never walked in the Scottish hills...you really should get out more!



Hillwalking with Wilderness Scotland.

The **National Parks of Loch Lomond** or the Cairngorms, the 'alpine' Black Cuillin Mountains on the Isle of Skye, the extraordinary terraced slopes of the Torridon National Nature Reserve in the North-west Highlands, or the graceful peaks of the Mamores near Ben Nevis, all have their own unique beauty.

Source:

<http://adventure.visitscotland.com/activities/earth/hillwalking/>

5.4 Kart Racing

Competitive kart racing is the fastest growing form of motorsports in the world and has already established itself as the first step on the ladder to motor racing success, and besides that it is a boat load of fun! Kart racing is the most popular four wheel participant sport in the world.

Where to go:

There are Karting tracks throughout Scotland, with many close to the major cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow. Indoor tracks, which are usually located in city areas can be raced all year round, however weather restrictions will apply at most centres.



Kart Racing with Scotkart.

Source:

<http://adventure.visitscotland.com/activities>