

## Scotland's Highlands

Watch the videos and fill in the gaps

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROqElhex5MA&feature=youtu.be>

The United Kingdom includes England, Wales, \_\_\_\_\_, and Scotland. Scotland includes a \_\_\_\_\_ of Britain's land. Its main cities are Glasgow and \_\_\_\_\_. To the south are the Lowlands and to the north, the \_\_\_\_\_. Focusing on the Highlands, we'll visit Inveraray [and] \_\_\_\_\_, and follow the Caledonian Canal to \_\_\_\_\_, Inverness, and the battlefield at \_\_\_\_\_.

Here in Scotland, the Highlands have more than half the land, and only \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the people. Still, it's these Highlands — so vast, yet so sparsely populated — that give us the classic image of Scotland.

The highest mountains in Britain are here in Scotland, in the Highlands. While only around \_\_\_\_\_ in altitude, they offer a dramatic welcome and a backdrop of constantly changing views for road trippers. Long lakes, called "lochs" here, cut like fjords into a land where the heritage remains strong.

In this region, so much seems proudly Scottish: Clans gather to celebrate traditional sports. Girls grow up dreaming to dance like their mothers did. Whisky is savored with reverence for the culture. And pipers still stir the Scottish soul.

And, in this land so steeped in culture, Scotland's beloved \_\_\_\_\_ feels perfectly at home. These shaggy Highland cattle have evolved to fit the environment. Their adorable bangs protect their eyes from both insects and the persistent wind.

Historically, Highland society was centered around the \_\_\_\_\_ system. In medieval times, long before being tamed by any central government, the Highlands were inhabited by a collection of proud and often bickering tribes, or "clans" — each with its own chief and deep-seated traditions.

Castles dotting the landscape evoke this strong clan heritage. \_\_\_\_\_ people — whether in Scotland or abroad as part of the Scottish diaspora — still relate to their historic clan. And many venerate a particular castle as their historic capital and almost spiritual center.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckLoyLO-Hmg&feature=youtu.be>

**Inveraray Castle**, the residence of the \_\_\_\_\_, has a stately, turreted exterior set in a delightful garden.

Historically, a stronghold of the \_\_\_\_\_ clan, its walls are well-hung with portraits of the many dukes who've called this palace home. Here's the first duke, with dukes number two and three on deck.

As with many such castles, the \_\_\_\_\_ family still lives here — like clan royals. Displays are like the family scrapbook; showing the current duke and his family, who still occupy the private half of this palace.

The public half is a museum filled with precious-if-you're-a-Campbell artifacts. This case features pendants of esteemed family members through the ages. This one's filled with dirks and daggers set against a nice Campbell tartan.

A highlight is the \_\_\_\_\_, which fills the main atrium. Here, swords and rifles are artistically arrayed in starburst patterns. Docents are standing by, and happy to answer questions.

**Docent:** So, our halberds here date from the \_\_\_\_\_. They come from the earlier castle, before this one.

**Rick:** Now, what is a halberd?

**Docent:** So, a halberd could be used against charging cavalry and you'll notice they've got tassels on them. It's not just for decoration. Don't know about you — if I'm killing someone, you don't want their blood dripping down your weapon, making it all slippery.

**Rick:** So, the tassels actually had a function.

**Docent:** That's right. So, the tassels would soak up the blood.

**Rick:** And these muskets?

**Docent:** So, this is our \_\_\_\_\_ flintlock muskets, all dating from the \_\_\_\_\_. These are all original, and they were last used at the \_\_\_\_\_ — 1746; the last battle fought on British soil.

**Docent:** Yes, so, we have, in this cabinet, some of the belongings of \_\_\_\_\_ MacGregor, a kind of famous folk hero.

**Rick:** The famous Rob Roy?

**Docent:** That's right, Rob Roy MacGregor. So, this is his sporran here.

**Rick:** And what is a sporran?

**Docent:** So, a sporran, if you think of a kilt, there's no pockets in a kilt.

**Rick:** Right.

**Docent:** So, you'd have your sporran, and, in your sporran, you'd have maybe a wee bag of oatmeal.

**Rick:** So, this is your bag of essentials —

**Docent:** Exactly. Yes, for sure, yeah.

**Rick:** ...hanging right here in front.

**Docent:** Yeah.

You'll find castles like this all over the Highlands. Today, countless Scottish Americans make a pilgrimage of sorts to their ancestral clan capital. If you're a Campbell, you'd come here, to Inveraray.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZO\\_f2EPRoI&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZO_f2EPRoI&feature=youtu.be)

The main town of the west coast of the Highlands is \_\_\_\_\_. With the arrival of the train in \_\_\_\_\_, Oban became the unofficial capital of this region. and a destination for tourists.

Today, Oban's \_\_\_\_\_ seems eager to please its many visitors. Victorian facades recall those early days of tourism. Before then, its economy was dominated by \_\_\_\_\_ — its venerable distillery has been busy since \_\_\_\_\_ — and by fishing. Even today, a tiny fleet stays busy. When the rain clears, sun-starved Scots enjoy their \_\_\_\_\_. And the beach brings joy to young families.

The town's port has long been a lifeline to Scotland's Hebrides Islands, earning Oban the nickname "\_\_\_\_\_."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtEObzvwo4Y&feature=youtu.be>

We're driving south to learn how some of the original Highlanders lived. Across Scotland, little round islands on lakes are the remains of pre-historic fortified homes. These are called "crannogs" — and date back centuries before Christ. Here at the **Crannog Centre** on \_\_\_\_\_ one's been rebuilt, using mostly traditional methods, and now welcomes visitors.

**Docent:** This is the Scottish Crannog Centre. It's a reproduction of a \_\_\_\_\_-year-old crannog that archaeologists are excavating, as we speak, in Loch Tay, right now. It was built out in the loch itself for defensive purposes. In Scotland then, you had bears, you had wolves, you had big cats — called "lynx," other people roaming the countryside. And if you're out here in the water, there's only one way in and out, and that's the walkway. So, if you can keep that secure, you, yourself, in here, are going to feel a lot safer.

Guides demonstrate \_\_\_\_\_ technology — turning a lathe...grinding flour...

**Docent:** ...stones against each other.

and even starting a fire the really old-fashioned way.

**Rick:** Whoa.

**Docent:** That's how you make a fire.

You can give the tools a try yourself — and discover how easy the guides make it look.

Scotland is littered with reminders of prehistoric people from an even earlier age. At [the] **Clava Cairns**, three Bronze Age burial chambers date from about \_\_\_\_\_ years ago. Each was once buried under turf-covered mounds, and surrounded by a \_\_\_\_\_. The central "ring cairn" has an open space in its middle. The two "passage cairns" each have an entrance shaft that — on the winter solstice — lines up with the setting sun. Visitors are caught up in the peaceful wonder of this ancient and sacred site.

Enjoy the mystery of this place: Were these stone circles part of a celestial calendar? Was the soul of the deceased transported into the next life when the sun was just right? Nobody really knows.