

CULTURE

TRADITIONAL CLOTHES

1 Discuss the questions.

- 1 What four countries are part of the United Kingdom?
- 2 What are the nationalities of those four countries?
- 3 How do you think people dress in those countries? Do you know of any traditional clothes from the United Kingdom?

2 Read the text. Match photos A-D to countries in the UK.



UK CULTURE

Traditional clothes

In many countries there are traditional clothes that people wear for special occasions, such as national holidays and popular folk festivals. The United Kingdom includes four different countries – England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland – and each country has its own history and special **customs**.

One of the most traditional items of clothing in the UK is the kilt. There are many versions, but the most famous ones are the kilts that men wear in Scotland on special occasions. Traditional Scottish kilts are made with five metres of tartan, which is a **fabric** with vertical and horizontal lines in different colours. Many Scottish families have a tartan with their own special colours. At the front of their kilts, Scottish men usually wear a small bag called a sporran to carry money and personal **items**. Scottish women wear a tartan skirt with a blouse and a tartan cloth on their shoulders called a shawl. They may also wear tartan dresses.

In Wales, some women wear a traditional costume on important **occasions**, such as St David's Day, on 1st March. On those special days, many women wear a long dress with a red shawl over their shoulders. However, the most unusual part of the costume is a tall, black hat. It looks like the very formal hats that men wore in the past. Welsh men haven't got a special costume for festivals, but they often wear old-fashioned trousers called breeches.



England hasn't got a national folk costume, but some people wear special clothes for traditional events, such as Morris dancing shows. Morris dancers can wear many different things, but they typically have white or black trousers or breeches. Some people also wear hats and short jackets called waistcoats, with long, colourful ribbons that move when they dance. It's quite **spectacular!**

In Northern Ireland, traditional Irish step dancing is very popular, and the dancers usually wear special clothes for their **performances**. Women and girls typically wear a short dress so they can kick up their feet quickly and easily. They sometimes wear tights on their legs, especially when the weather is cold. Men and boys usually wear simple clothes to step dance, such as black trousers, a shirt and a colourful jacket.



3 Are the sentences true or false? Correct the false sentences.

- 1 The kilt is traditionally a clothing item for Scottish men.
- 2 A sporran is a cloth that woman wear on their shoulders.
- 3 Welsh men and women wear tall black hats for special events.
- 4 Breeches are trousers that some men wear to festivals.
- 5 There's an official costume for all Morris dancers in England.
- 6 Irish women must wear tights when they do step dancing.

4 Match the highlighted words in the text to the meanings.

spectacular	customs	fabric	occasions
performances	items		

- 1 material for making clothes
- 2 very exciting to see and watch
- 3 special days or moments
- 4 normal habits in a culture
- 5 things or objects
- 6 shows for an audience

5 Look at the guards in the photos. What are they wearing? Where do you think they work?



6 Listen to a presentation about the Beefeaters. Match the names of the uniforms to the photos.

- 1 state dress uniform
- 2 undress uniform

7 Listen again and answer the questions.

- 1 Where can tourists usually see Beefeaters?
- 2 How long ago were the Beefeaters established?
- 3 Why are these special guards called Beefeaters?
- 4 When do the Beefeaters wear the two uniforms?
- 5 What colours are these parts of the state dress uniform?
 - a collar
 - b stockings
 - c bonnet

8 Read the *Useful language* phrases. Complete them with the words in the box.

collar	costumes	custom
dark	decorations	occasions



USEFUL LANGUAGE

Talking about traditional clothes

- 1 People wear traditional _____.
- 2 This is a very important _____ in my country.
- 3 They wear _____ blue trousers.
- 4 The coat's got lots of gold _____.
- 5 For important _____ the (Beefeaters) wear (the state dress uniform).
- 6 There's a big _____ at the top of the coat.