



THE HISTORY OF KILTS



The kilt is the official national dress of Scotland. It is a type of skirt, but not for women. It is for men. It is elegant, practical and fashionable and it is the symbol of Scotland.

The first people to wear the kilt were the Highlanders, the people who lived in the North of Scotland. They walked through the mountains in the cold winter wearing the kilt, a «skirt» made of wool. Centuries ago, they also used the kilt to cover their heads in cold weather or to use it as a blanket.

Many kilts are made by hand and are very expensive. They come in many different designs and colours. This design is called «tartan» and it has horizontal and vertical lines which form coloured squares.

Tartan design is everywhere: on bagpipes*, on expensive raincoats and even on some bus seats in Edinburgh! Originally, it was used to distinguish members of different clans. The word «clan» means children or family in Gaelic.

Not many people wear a kilt daily. Kilts are for special occasions; for example, people wear them at weddings, funerals, family parties, festivals, sports events and more. Men wear a kilt with a small bag for their money, a special shirt, a jacket, a bow tie, long socks and shoes. Traditionally, women and girls didn't wear kilts. They wore a tartan shawl** to indicate their clan.

You can see the kilt all over the world. In America, for example, there are many people who have Scottish ancestors*** and wear the kilt on special occasions. They emigrated to the USA from Scotland looking for new opportunities and a better life.

VOCABULARY

* bagpipes: gaites, instruments musicales.

** shawl: xal, mocador que es posa sobre les espatlles com a abric o adorn.

*** ancestors: avantpassats.

Read this text carefully and tick the correct answers.

1. The kilt is the official national dress of...

- a. Ireland.
- b. England.
- c. Scotland.

2. Who wears the kilt?

- a. Men.
- b. Women.
- c. Everybody.

3. The kilt is _____ piece of clothing.

- a. a sportive
- b. an informal
- c. a traditional

4. Who were the first people to wear the kilt?

- a. The British.
- b. The Americans.
- c. The Highlanders.

5. They lived in the _____ of Scotland.

- a. North
- b. South
- c. West

6. The kilt is made of...

- a. silk.
- b. wool.
- c. cotton.

7. Which sentence about the kilts is TRUE?

- a. They are very cheap.
- b. All of them are made in factories.
- c. They have got horizontal and vertical lines.

8. When do people wear a kilt?

- a. At weddings.
- b. At home.
- c. At work.

9. When men wear a kilt, they keep the money in...

- a. a small bag.
- b. their pocket.
- c. a school bag.

10. According to the text, when do women wear kilts?

- a. Never.
- b. Every day.
- c. Only on special days.

11. Put the sentences as it appears in the text.

A.

The design of the kilt.

B.

Occasions to wear the kilt.

C.

The first people to wear the kilt.

a. B → A → C

b. C → A → B

c. B → C → A

12. This text explains the...

- a. history of Scotland.
- b. English traditions.
- c. origins of the kilt.