

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises to check your understanding.

### Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1..... Celtic             | a. the name of a language spoken in Scotland                              |
| 2..... Scots              | b. related to the Celts, an ancient people who lived in Scotland          |
| 3..... a parliament       | c. typical of a country and its culture                                   |
| 4..... tartan             | d. a Scottish sports, music and dance competition that is held every year |
| 5..... traditional        | e. a government house where politicians meet and discuss things           |
| 6..... the Highland Games | f. a design with horizontal and vertical lines in lots of colours         |

### 1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

- |   |             |              |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. All of Scotland's islands are populated.                             | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. Scotland is a country of great natural beauty.                       | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. Scotland can make its own laws.                                      | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. Most Scottish people can speak Scottish Gaelic.                      | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. You can hear bagpipes at public and cultural events.                 | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. Shinty is a traditional sport similar to hockey.                     | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. A caber tossing competition involves throwing big tree trunks.       | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. Scotland has a lot of types of fish and seafood to choose from.      | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 9. The Scottish flag is red and white.                                  | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 10. Scotland's national symbols include a mythical animal and a flower. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

## 2. Check your understanding: matching

Match the questions with the correct answers and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

- |        |   |    |                    |
|--------|---|----|--------------------|
| 1..... | How many islands are there in Scotland?                 | a. | 11.30 p.m.         |
| 2..... | What time does night begin in summer?                   | b. | about five million |
| 3..... | How many people live in Scotland?                       | c. | 8.5                |
| 4..... | What percentage of the UK population lives in Scotland? | d. | 30                 |
| 5..... | When were the first Highland Games in New York?         | e. | about 800          |
| 6..... | Which day in November is St Andrew's Day?               | f. | 1836               |

## 3. Check your grammar: gap fill

Write the verb to fill the gaps.

1. Scotland \_\_\_\_\_ nearly 800 islands.
2. The Northern Lights \_\_\_\_\_ spectacular lights in the sky.
3. In winter you can sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ the Northern Lights.
4. Most people \_\_\_\_\_ in the south of the country.
5. Most people \_\_\_\_\_ two languages – English and Scots.
6. A kilt \_\_\_\_\_ a traditional skirt with a tartan design.
7. Pipers and dancers usually \_\_\_\_\_ kilts.
8. You can \_\_\_\_\_ skiing or snowboarding at Scotland's ski resorts.

### Discussion

Have you ever been to Scotland? Would you like to go?