

Read the text.

My A–Z of Scotland

**Hi! My name's Martha Stewart and I live in Glasgow.
This is my Scotland – letter by letter.**

A is Saint Andrew, the patron saint for Scotland. St Andrew's Day is the 30th November.

B is for bagpipes, the national musical instrument.
Not originally Scottish – in fact the Roman Emperor Nero played them. Or so my history teacher tells me.



C is for clan, a group of Scots with the same ancestors, for example McDonald or Campbell. Each one has its own tartan. The best example is Stewart!

D is for Dolly the sheep, the first cloned mammal. She was created in Scotland in 1996 and lived for seven years.

E is for Edinburgh, the capital city. The Scottish Parliament is here and there's a really famous arts festival in August.

F is for the Forth Railway Bridge, one of the symbols of Scotland. I think it's very beautiful. It was completed in 1890, and it takes seven years to paint!



G is for Glasgow, the second city of Scotland and my home town! We have two famous football teams, Celtic and Rangers. G is also for golf, a very popular sport in Scotland.

H is for haggis, the Scottish national dish, a kind of sausage. (Don't tell anyone, but I think it's horrible!) H is also for the Highlands, the beautiful mountainous area of Scotland.

I is for inventors. Scots invented or discovered: asphalt, the macintosh, penicillin, the pneumatic tyre. I is also for islands – did you know that Scotland has over 700?

J is for John O'Groats. A village in north-west Scotland and the most northerly point of mainland Britain.

K is for kilt, the most famous symbol of Scotland and worn mostly by men on special occasions, like weddings. Interesting fact: traditionally, you wear nothing under a kilt!

L is for Loch Lomond, our biggest lake. We often go there for picnics and walks.

M is for Macbeth, King of Scotland from 1040 to 1057 and the hero of a famous play by Shakespeare.

N is for Nessie, the nickname of the Loch Ness Monster. I've never seen her, but lots of people believe that Nessie exists.

O is for oil from the North Sea. It was discovered in the 1960s and is still very important for Scotland, especially the city of Aberdeen.



P is for Princes Street, the most famous and glamorous street in Edinburgh, full of classy shops and department stores.

Q is for Queen. The Queen (or King) of England is also the Queen of Scotland. However, many Scots believe that Scotland should be an independent nation, as it was before 1707.

R is for Robert Burns, the most famous Scottish poet. He wrote *Auld Lang Syne*, which we all sing at Hogmanay (New Year's Eve). On Burns Night (25th January), Scots around the world celebrate, eat haggis and drink whisky.

S is for Saltire, the national flag. It shows the cross of St Andrew, an X-shaped white cross on a dark blue background.



T is for tartan, the characteristic criss-cross pattern seen on kilts, scarves, trousers, etc.

U is for University of St Andrews, the oldest university in Scotland, (founded 1413), where my good friend (I wish!) Prince William studied. St Andrews is also the home of golf, the national game.

V is for very strong. See next letter.

W is for whisky, Scotland's most famous drink and business: every year, more than 950 million bottles are exported.



X is for xenophobia, something Scots do not have! Visitors always get a warm welcome.

Y is for youth. Young people here are proud to be Scottish. We have a strong youth culture and fantastic bands like *Texas*, *Travis* and *Franz Ferdinand*.

Z is for zero, the number of times the Scottish football team have won the World Cup. (Well, can you think of something Scottish beginning with 'Z'?)