

## Men of talent and genius

At no time in its history has Scotland produced so many men of talent and genius as in the last half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Philosophers, writers, (1) ... , architects, engineers and men of science and (2) ... all seemed to reach the height of their powers in the space of a few (3) ... . The work of these and other gifted men had a radical impact on the Scottish economy, which until then had relied mainly on (4) ... .

In 1779, the country's first cotton mill was opened and by the end of the century cotton spinning had become one of the country's (5) ... industries.

The process continued rapidly during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Gradually, Scotland lost its supremacy in cotton to Lancashire, but achieved truly spectacular advances in other fields, notably coal mining, iron and steel production, heavy engineering and (6) ... .

Economic change was accompanied

by (7) ... change. Art, literature, and architecture flourished. Glasgow and Edinburgh, each with a population of around 80,000, became two of the most attractive cities in the United Kingdom, distinguished by elegant (8) ... , streets and terraces, by stately civic buildings and extensive parks. Clubs, debating societies and coffee houses contributed to the cultural life of the country and Edinburgh was dubbed the 'Athens of the North'.

This period was a golden age in the field of education as well. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century only one child in 1300 in England was receiving a secondary education; the corresponding figure for Scotland was one in 200 and no other country could approach that ratio. The (9) ... and literary life of the universities (10) ... but the country was not able to provide enough careers for its trained young people and, as a result, thousands went off to various parts of the British Empire or moved overseas.



1. Charles Rennie Mackintosh, oak painted white chair, 1902. (Hunterian Museum of Art Gallery, Glasgow).

### 1. READING

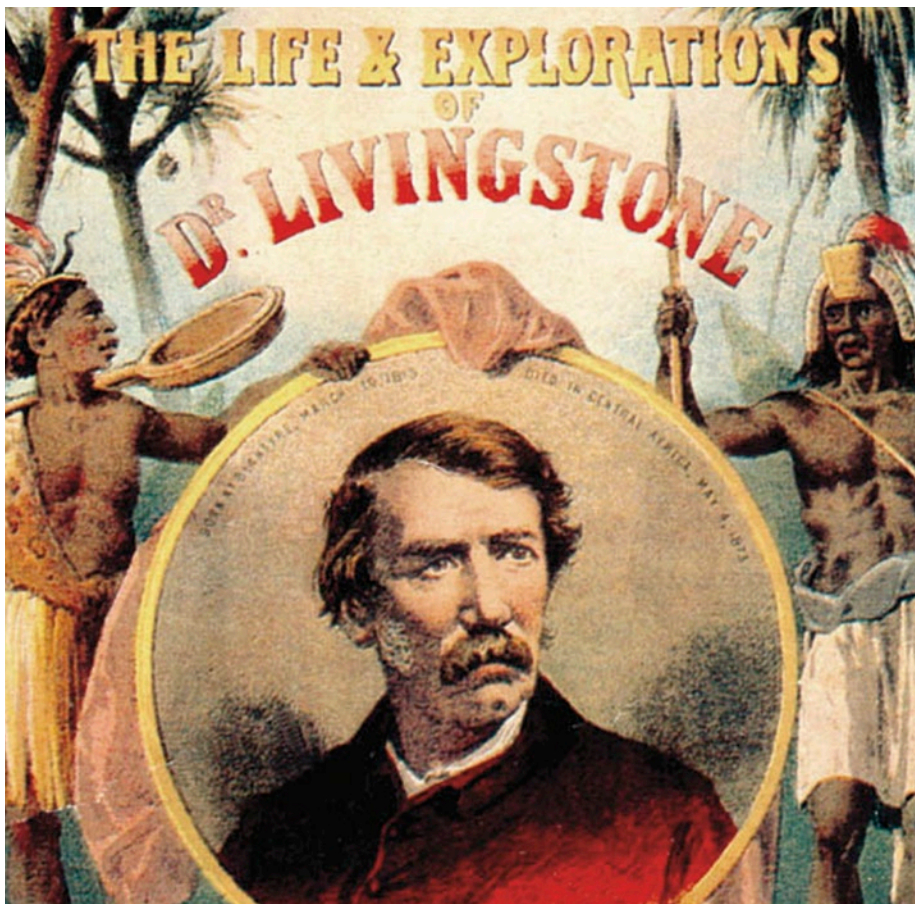
Read the text on the left and fill in the gaps with the words below.

agriculture • cultural • decades • flourished • inventors • leading • medicine • scientific • shipbuilding • squares

### 2. PROJECT WORK

The following are some of the famous Scots who provided outstanding contribution to different fields of science, literature, and thought. Find out who they were and what their contribution was. Then choose one and prepare a card on him.

- David Hume (1711-1776)
- Adam Smith (1723-1790)
- Robert Adam (1728-1792)
- James Watt (1736-1819)
- Charles R. Mackintosh (1868-1928)
- Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832)
- David Livingstone (1813-1873)
- John B. Dunlop (1840-1921)
- Alexander G. Bell (1847-1922)
- Robert L. Stevenson (1850-1894)
- Alexander Fleming (1881-1955)
- John L. Baird (1888-1946)



2. The cover of a book about David Livingstone.

## The Flower of Scotland

The song 'The Flower of Scotland' has been adopted as Scotland's unofficial national anthem and it is sung by Scottish supporters at international football and rugby games.

### 3. READING

Read the lyrics and answer the questions below.

1. Who/what is the 'Flower of Scotland' mentioned in the song?
2. Who 'fought and died'?
3. What does 'hill and glen' refer to?
4. Who is 'Proud Edward'?
5. Why/when/where was he 'sent homeward'?

*O flower of Scotland  
When will we see  
Your like again  
That fought and died for  
Your wee bit<sup>1</sup> hill and glen  
And stood against him  
Proud Edward's army  
And sent him homeward  
Tae<sup>2</sup> think again.*

*The hills are bare now  
And autumn leaves lie  
Thick and still  
O'er<sup>3</sup> land that is lost now  
Which those so dearly held  
And stood against him  
Proud Edward's army  
And sent him homeward  
Tae think again.*

*Those days are passed now  
And in the past  
They must remain  
But we can still rise now  
And be the nation again  
That stood against him  
Proud Edward's army  
And sent him homeward  
Tae think again.*

1. wee bit: small
2. Tae: to
3. O'er: over

## The twentieth century

The prosperity of 19<sup>th</sup> century Scotland ended after the First World War. The collapse of heavy industry produced mass unemployment and social decay in the Central Lowlands. It took Scotland a few decades to recover and change its economy.

After the Second World War Scotland moved increasingly away from its former dependence on the traditional industries of coalmining, steel-making, shipbuilding and heavy engineering. There was also a rapid growth of the service sector and the traditionally strong sector of insurance, banking and finance. Moreover, the discovery of oil in the North Sea in the early 1970s had a positive impact on the Scottish economy and provided many thousands of jobs. Today it is the largest oil reserve in the EU.

Today the Scottish economy has grown and Scottish products such as textiles, food and drink, machinery, sports equipment and many others, enjoy a reputation all over the world. Tourism is a key contributor to the Scottish economy. There has also been a further expansion and development of high technology sectors such as electronics, advanced engineering, health care and biotechnology as well as of financial services. Edinburgh is the sixth financial centre in Europe with the Royal Bank of Scotland as one of the largest banks on the continent.

The Loch Ness monster, affectionately known as 'Nessie', is a creature which lives in Loch Ness, a long, deep lake near Inverness, Scotland. Many sightings of the 'monster' have been recorded, going back at least as far as St. Columba, the Irish monk who converted most of Scotland to Christianity in the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

The modern legend of Nessie begins in 1934 when a photo was taken of a beast with a long neck emerging out of the murky waters. That photo created quite a fuss. Before the photo, the locals knew the ancient history of the sea serpent, but people came to the lake more to relax than to go on expeditions looking for mythical beasts. Several sightings came later and a tourist industry based on Nessie developed over the years. The tabloids will pay good money for a photo of Nessie!

Scottish names often start with 'Mac' or 'Mc', which means 'son of'. In the past, people with the same name belonged to the same family or clan, e.g. MacDonald, McCallan.

Marmalade was created in Dundee around 1700, after a rash purchase left grocer James Keiller with a large cargo of bitter Seville oranges; as he was unable to sell them, his wife Janet added them to a preserve. Soon her delicious creation was on everyone's table.

One of Scotland's traditional national dishes is haggis, a mixture of chopped sheep's heart, lungs and liver blended with oatmeal and suet and sewn into the stomach of the sheep, which is then boiled. It doesn't sound appetizing but it is actually a tasty dish.



3. Bed & Breakfast in Scotland.

### 4. WRITING

In pairs read the other texts on this page and write 8 questions for your partner to answer. Then exchange your questions and write the answers.