

What makes someone Scottish?

Investigate the concept of Scottishness or Scottish identity and express an understanding of its complexity through group discussions.

Aims

- To investigate the concept of Scottishness or Scottish identity.
- To express an understanding of its complexity through discussion.

This activity is an exploration of students' personal understanding of the concept of Scottish identity. It does not explore nationalism nor promote a specific national identity but looks to highlight the complexity and diversity involved in concepts of Scottishness. The same format could be used within other nation states for example: **What makes you Polish? What makes you Pakistani?**

What you need

Worksheet: What Makes You Scottish? Cut into sets of statements, one per group. (These statements are intended as suggestions only and you may wish to adapt them to reflect the diversity of culture and experience in your class.)

What to do

Brainstorm the question: **What makes you Scottish?** Ideas might include name, place of birth, language, where you live, how long you have lived there, whether you contribute to your community.

Group students in threes and give each group a set of the 'I am Scottish because...' statements, cut from the Worksheet Sheet. Read through the statements and encourage students to add in a statement of their own. Other possibilities include:

- > I am a Scot because I am proud to be Scottish.
- > I am a Scot because I speak Scottish.
- > I am a Scot because I dress in Scottish clothes.
- > I am a Scot because I think and act like a Scot.

Encourage groups to discuss their understanding of the statements and to create a diamond 9 in order of relevance and importance. The most important statements should be at the top and the least important statements sit at the bottom of the diamond formation.

Reflection & Evaluation

- Can we agree on what elements make us Scottish?
- Are any of these elements likely to change? How many will always be the same?
- How would your concept of your Scottish identity change if you were in a different situation? For example, if you moved to live in a different country, changed your name or lost your Scottish accent.

This activity is taken from A' Adams Bairns. Visit <https://aadamsbairns.org.uk/> for the complete resource.

Continued next page

A' Adam's Bairns?

Unit 4 Scottish identity and diversity > Who is a Scot > What makes you Scottish

I am Scottish because I was born here	I am Scottish because I live here	I am Scottish because I have a Scottish accent
I am Scottish because my father was born here	I am Scottish because I go to school in Scotland	I am Scottish because my name begins with Mc/Mac
I am Scottish because I (or my family) contribute to the economy of Scotland	I am Scottish because I support Scotland's international sports teams	I am Scottish because...

Arrange the above statements in the order you feel to be most/least true, relevant or important using the 'diamond ranking' formation below. Don't forget to add in a statement of your own!

The diagram shows a diamond ranking formation with 10 empty boxes arranged in five rows: 1 box at the top, 2 boxes in the second row, 3 boxes in the third row, 2 boxes in the fourth row, and 1 box at the bottom. To the right of the boxes is a vertical double-headed arrow. The word 'Most' is written at the top of the arrow, and the word 'Least' is written at the bottom of the arrow.