

Scotland's Landscape

We can divide Scotland's landscape into three areas: the Highlands and Islands, the Central Lowlands and the Southern Uplands.

Highlands

The Highlands of Scotland have mountain ranges like the Grampians and the Cuillins. Ben Nevis, near Fort William, is the highest mountain in Britain at 1344m high.

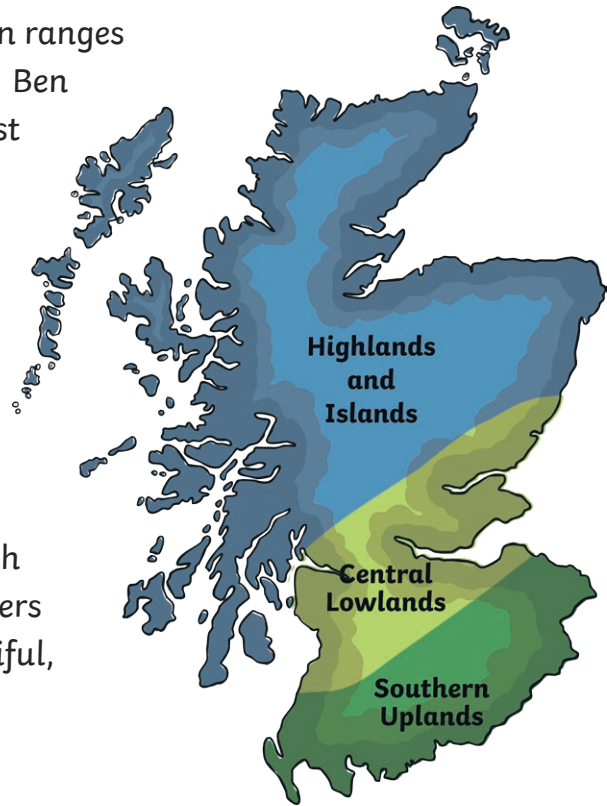
The Cuillin mountains are found on the Isle of Skye. They are known as the Red Cuillin and the Black Cuillin. The Red Cuillin in the east are soft and rounded but the Black Cuillin in the west are sharp and jagged.

Highland mountains are popular in both summer and winter with walkers, climbers and skiers, and whilst they are beautiful, they can also be very dangerous places.

Islands

The Shetland Isles are the most northerly part of Scotland and are nearer to Norway than they are to the Scottish mainland. There are around one hundred Shetland Islands but only sixteen have people living on them. The largest island, known as Mainland, is where the main town Lerwick is found.

Other inhabited islands such as Yell, Unst, Bressay, Whalsay, East and West Burra and Trondra can be reached by ferry or road bridge.



Interesting Fact

Scotland has 790 islands, but only around ninety-five of these have people living on them.

Scotland's Landscape

Orkney is a group of around seventy islands found between mainland Scotland and the Shetland Isles. Around eighteen of these islands have people living on them. The main town in Orkney is Kirkwall.

The Outer Hebrides are a group of islands off the north-west coast of mainland Scotland. The main islands are Lewis and Harris, North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist and Barra. The town with the largest population is Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis.

The Inner Hebrides are a group of islands between the coast of mainland Scotland and the Outer Hebrides. The largest islands in this group are Islay, Jura, Mull, Rum and Skye. Ferries travel between many of these islands and the mainland. The island of Skye can be reached by crossing the Skye road bridge.

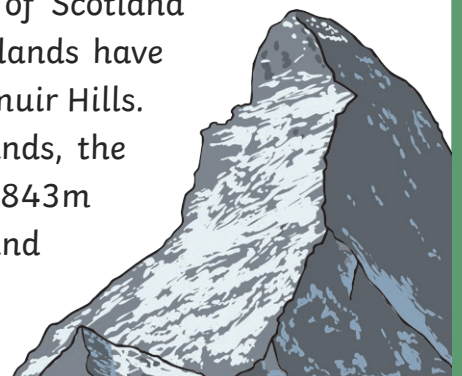


Central Lowlands

The Central Lowlands are found between the Highlands in the North and the Southern Uplands in the South. They stretch from the Firth of Forth on the east coast to the Firth of Clyde on the West coast. Scotland's capital city, Edinburgh, and Scotland's largest city, Glasgow, are found at either side of the Central Lowlands. Over half of Scotland's population live in this area.

Southern Uplands

The Southern Uplands are the most southerly part of Scotland and are found near the border with England. The Uplands have ranges of hills like the Galloway Hills and the Lammermuir Hills. Although they are not as mountainous as the Highlands, the highest peak in the Southern Uplands is Merrick at 843m high. Wanlockhead is the UK's highest village and is found in the Southern Uplands. It is 430m above sea level.



Scotland's Landscape Questions

1. Name the three areas of Scotland's landscape.

2. What is the highest mountain in Britain called?

3. Where are the Cuillin mountains found?

4. What is the name of the main town in Shetland?

5. How many Orkney Islands have people living on them?

6. On which island in the Outer Hebrides is Stornoway found?

7. How can you reach the inner Hebridean island of Skye?

8. Which two cities can be found in the Central Lowlands?

9. What is the highest peak in the Southern Uplands?

10. What is the name of the highest village in the UK?

Scotland's Landscape Answers

1. Name the three areas of Scotland's landscape.
The three areas are the Highlands and Islands, the Central Lowlands and the Southern Uplands.
2. What is the highest mountain in Britain called?
The highest mountain in Britain is Ben Nevis.
3. Where are the Cuillin mountains found?
The Cuillin mountains are found on the Isle of Skye.
4. What is the name of the main town in Shetland?
The main town in Shetland is called Lerwick.
5. How many Orkney Islands have people living on them?
Around eighteen of the Orkney Islands have people living on them.
6. On which island in the Outer Hebrides is Stornoway found?
Stornoway is found on the Isle of Lewis.
7. How can you reach the Inner Hebridean island of Skye?
You can cross the road bridge to get to Skye.
8. Which two cities can be found in the Central Lowlands?
Glasgow and Edinburgh are found in the Central Lowlands.
9. What is the highest peak in the Southern Uplands?
The highest peak in the Southern Uplands is Merrick.
10. What is the name of the highest village in the UK?
The highest village in the UK is Wanlockhead.

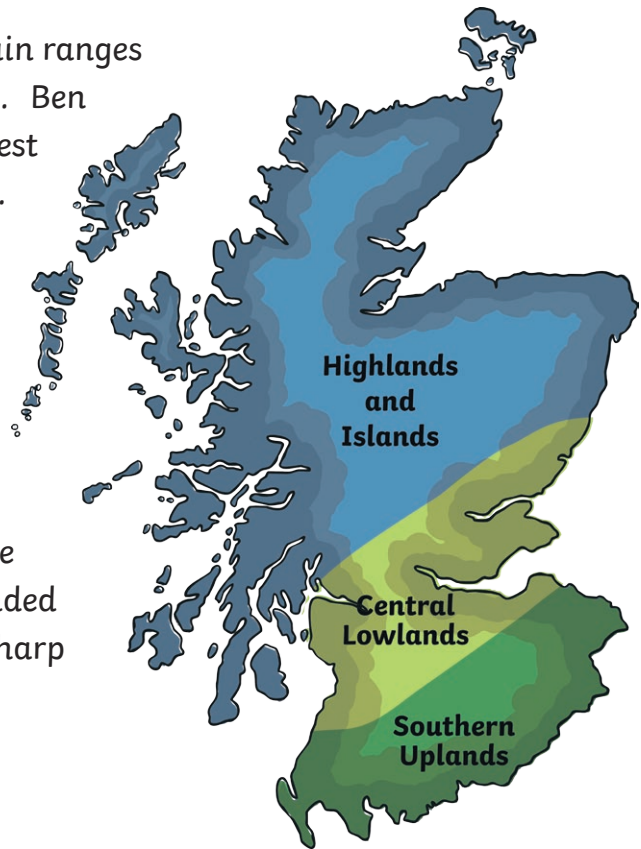
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Highlands

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The Cuillin mountains are found on the Isle of Skye. They are known as the Red Cuillin and the Black Cuillin. The Red Cuillin in the East are soft and rounded but the Black Cuillin in the west are sharp and jagged.



Highland mountains are popular in both summer and winter with walkers, climbers and skiers, and whilst they are beautiful, they can also be very dangerous places.

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Islands

Scotland has 790 islands, but only around ninety-five of these have people living on them.

The Shetland Isles are the most northerly part of Scotland and are nearer to Norway than they are to the Scottish mainland. There are around one hundred Shetland Islands but only sixteen of these are inhabited. The largest island, known as Mainland, is where the main town called Lerwick is found. Other inhabited islands such as Yell, Unst, Bressay, Whalsay, East and West Burra and Trondra can be reached by ferry or road bridge. The highest point in Shetland is Ronas Hill at 450m.

Orkney is not one island but a group of around seventy islands between mainland Scotland and the Shetland Isles. Around eighteen of these islands are inhabited. The main town in Orkney is Kirkwall.



The Outer Hebrides are a group of islands off the north-west coast of mainland Scotland. The main islands are Lewis and Harris, North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist, and Barra. The town with the largest population is Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis.

The Inner Hebrides are a group of islands between the coast of mainland Scotland and the Outer Hebrides. The largest islands in this group are Islay, Jura, Mull, Rum and Skye. Ferries travel between many of these islands and the mainland. The island of Skye can be reached by crossing the Skye road bridge.

Burra and Trondra can be reached by ferry or road bridge.

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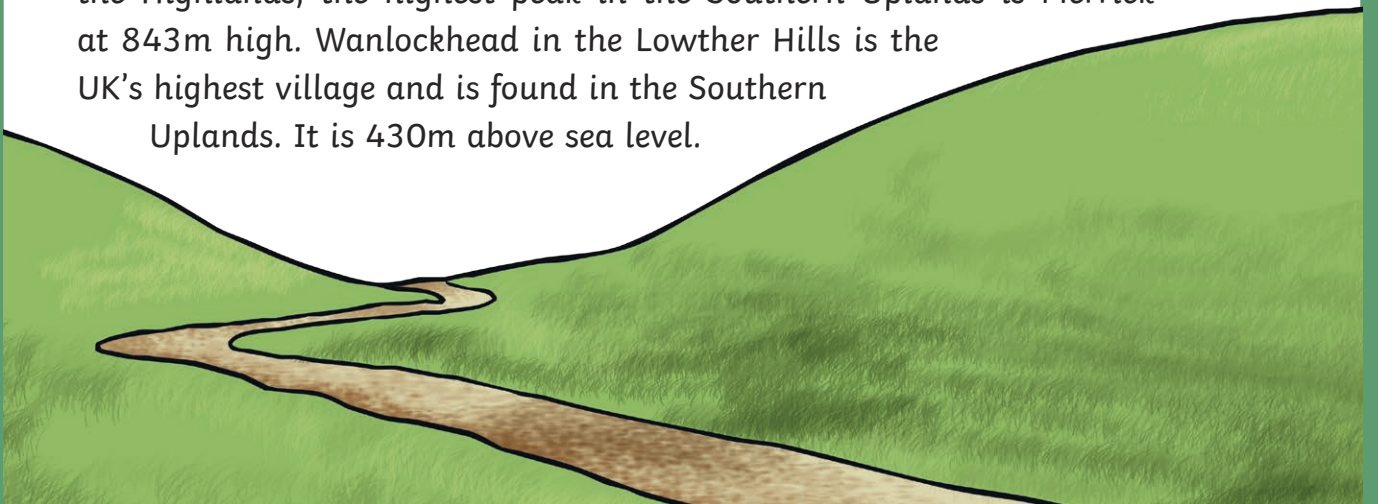
Central Lowlands

The Central Lowlands are found between the Highlands in the north and the Southern Uplands in the south. They stretch from the Firth of Forth on the East coast to the Firth of Clyde on the west coast. Scotland's capital city, Edinburgh (pictured), and Scotland's largest city, Glasgow, are found at either side of the Central Lowlands. Over half of Scotland's population live in this area.



Southern Uplands

The Southern Uplands are the most southerly part of Scotland and are found near the border with England. The Uplands have ranges of hills like the Galloway Hills and the Lammermuir Hills. Although they are not as mountainous as the Highlands, the highest peak in the Southern Uplands is Merrick at 843m high. Wanlockhead in the Lowther Hills is the UK's highest village and is found in the Southern Uplands. It is 430m above sea level.



Scotland's Landscape Questions

1. Name the three areas of Scotland's landscape.

2. Name two Scottish mountain ranges.

3. What is the highest mountain in Britain called and how high is it?

4. Where are the Cuillin mountains found?

5. How many Shetland Islands are inhabited?

6. How many Orkney Islands are there?

7. Where are the Outer Hebrides and Inner Hebrides found?

8. Which two cities can be found in the Central Lowlands?

9. Which country do the Southern Uplands border?

10. What is the name of the highest village in the UK and how high above sea level is it?

Scotland's Landscape Answers

1. Name the three areas of Scotland's landscape.
The three areas are the Highlands and Islands, the Central Lowlands and the Southern Uplands.
2. Name two Scottish mountain ranges.
Two Scottish mountain ranges are the Grampians and the Cuillins.
3. What is the highest mountain in Britain called and how high is it?
The highest mountain in Britain is Ben Nevis at 1344m high.
4. Where are the Cuillin mountains found?
The Cuillin mountains are found on the Isle of Skye.
5. How many Shetland Islands are inhabited?
Around sixteen Shetland Islands are inhabited.
6. How many Orkney Islands are there?
There are around seventy Orkney Islands.
7. Where are the Outer Hebrides and Inner Hebrides found?
The Outer and Inner Hebrides are found off the north-west coast of mainland Scotland.
8. Which two cities can be found in the Central Lowlands?
Glasgow and Edinburgh are found in the Central lowlands.
9. Which country do the Southern Uplands border?
The Southern Uplands border England.
10. What is the name of the highest village in the UK and how high above sea level is it?
The highest village in the UK is Wanlockhead at 430m above sea level.

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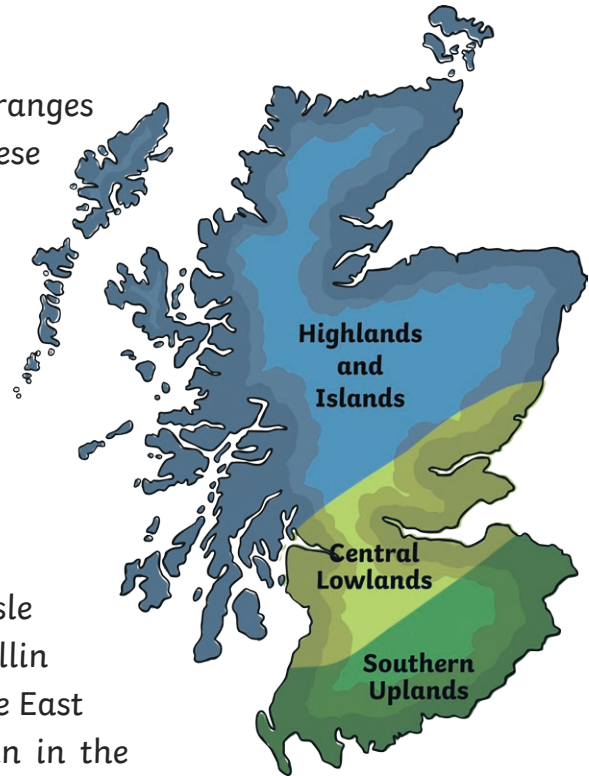
Highlands

The Highlands of Scotland have mountain ranges like the Grampians and the Cuillins. These mountains were carved by the movement of glaciers during the last ice age. Ben Nevis, near Fort William in the Highlands, is the highest mountain in Britain at 1344m above sea level. Fossils have been found in the North West Highlands from 750 million years ago. These are some of the oldest mountain ranges in the world.

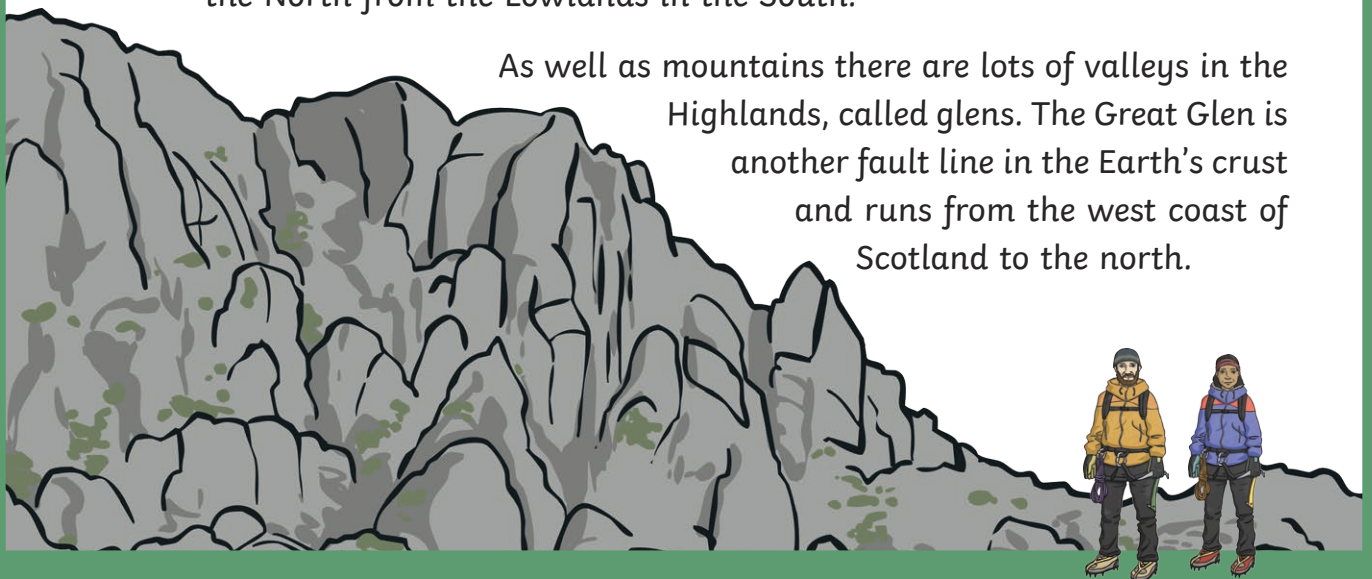
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The Highland Boundary Fault is a break in the rock of the Earth's crust. This runs across Scotland from an area around Helensburgh in the south west to around Stonehaven in the north east. This fault line naturally divides the mountains in the North from the Lowlands in the South.



As well as mountains there are lots of valleys in the Highlands, called glens. The Great Glen is another fault line in the Earth's crust and runs from the west coast of Scotland to the north.



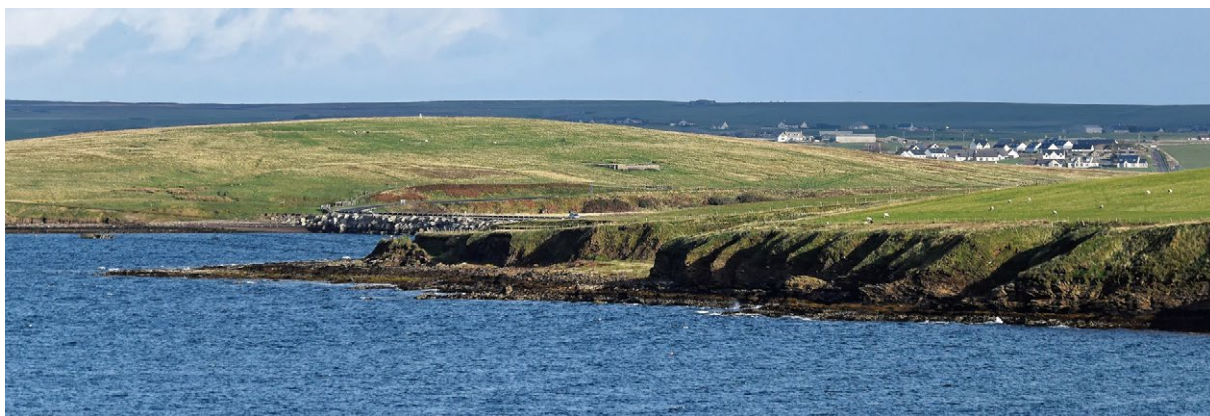
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Wanlockhead in the Lowther Hills is the UK's highest village and is found in the Southern Uplands.

It is 430m above sea level.



Scotland's Landscape Questions

1. Name the three areas of Scotland's landscape.

2. How were the mountains in the Highlands of Scotland made?

3. What is the highest mountain in Britain called, where is it and how high is it?

4. What is the difference between the Red Cuillin and the Black Cuillin mountains?

5. The Shetland Islands have close business and tourism as well as historic links with Norway. Why do you think this is the case?

6. How many Orkney Islands are uninhabited?

Scotland's Landscape Questions

7. Where are the Outer Hebrides and Inner Hebrides found?

8. Why do you think over half of Scotland's population lives in the Central Lowlands?

9. Name a range of hills found in the Southern Uplands.

10. What is the name of the highest village in the UK, where is it and how high above sea level is it?

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1. Name the three areas of Scotland's landscape.
The three areas are the Highlands and Islands, the Central Lowlands and the Southern Uplands.
2. How were the mountains in the Highlands of Scotland made?
These mountains were carved by the movement of glaciers during the last ice age.
3. What is the highest mountain in Britain called, where is it and how high is it?
The highest mountain in Britain is Ben Nevis near Fort William and it is 1344m high.
4. What is the difference between the Red Cuillin and the Black Cuillin mountains?
The Red Cuillin in the East are soft and rounded but the Black Cuillin in the West are sharp and jagged.
5. The Shetland Islands have close business and tourism as well as historic links with Norway. Why do you think this is the case?
The Shetland Islands are nearer to Norway than they are to the Scottish mainland.
6. How many Orkney Islands are uninhabited?
There are around seventy Orkney Islands with only eighteen inhabited: $70 - 18 = 52$ uninhabited islands.
7. Where are the Outer Hebrides and Inner Hebrides found?
The Outer and Inner Hebrides are found off the north-west coast of mainland Scotland.
8. Why do you think over half of Scotland's population lives in the Central Lowlands?
Open - This could be because Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland's two largest cities, are found in the Central Lowlands and many people live and work either in the cities themselves or within commuting distance of the cities.
9. Name a range of hills found in the Southern Uplands.
The Galloway Hills, the Lammermuir Hills or the Lowther Hills can be found in the Southern Uplands.
10. What is the name of the highest village in the UK, where is it and how high above sea level is it?
The highest village in the UK is Wanlockhead, in the Lowther Hills, in the Southern Uplands and it is 430m above sea level.