



Tartan Day (April 6, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? Tartan Day, a celebration honoring tartan, a traditional Scottish pattern made up of colorful stripes and checks.

Who? Scots and people of Scottish descent all over the world.

Where? In Scotland, but also in several countries like Canada, the United States, and Australia.

When? April 6th every year.

Why is it important? Because this day celebrates Scottish heritage, cultural traditions, and history.

For this activity, your goal will be to learn more about tartan.



OBJECTIVES

- Discover what tartan is and its origins
- Understand the link between tartan and Scottish identity
- Explore the Highlands region and its cultural influence
- Identify the elements of traditional Scottish dress
- Match clans to their tartans



SUBJECTS

- **Social Studies / Culture and Society**
 - Geography of Scotland
 - Scottish Culture and Traditions
- **English**
 - Reading and Comprehension
 - Short Responses
 - Vocabulary Use
- **Arts / Visual Culture**
 - Image Observation
 - Analysis of Patterns and Symbols



COMPETENCIES

- Researching and interpreting information
- Analyzing a visual message
- Making connections between different pieces of information
- Organizing ideas
- Producing short and precise answers



DURATION

- About 60 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they have ever seen a kilt or a plaid fabric.
- Ask them what this type of pattern makes them think of.
- Show them a picture of tartan or Scottish clothing.
- Ask the question: Why can a simple pattern represent an identity?



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — A Special Fabric. Discovery of the tartan through a video and answers to three comprehension questions.

Q1 — A fabric with intersecting colored lines.

Q2 — The Chinese.

Q3 — In the 16th century.

STEP 2 — Discovering the Highlands. Exploration of the region and identification of elements of traditional dress using the Wikipedia entry. Answers to six comprehension questions.

Q4 — 1,345 meters.

Q5 — The sheep.

Q6 — Tam o' Shanter.

Q7 — Sporrans.

Q8 — Sgian-dubh.

Q9 — Kilt.

STEP 3 — Tartans and Clans. Matching of clans with their tartans using the Scottish Register of Tartans.

Q10 — B

Q11 — A

Q12 — D

Q13 — C



WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group discussion about what the students have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them (traditions, clothing, clans).
- Ask: Why are tartans still used today?
- Make connections with other cultural symbols (flags, logos, uniforms).



FURTHER EXPLORATION

Richard Brassey, *The Story of Scotland*. Orion Children's Books

