

SCOTLAND: KATE AND HER PONY

Subject areas

social studies, world geography and cultures, multicultural studies, life science

Synopsis

Kate, who is 12 years old, lives on the small island of Luing in northern Scotland. She loves horseback riding and is busy preparing for the local competition. Learn about Kate's culture as she rides her pony, Chico, all over the island. At last the big day arrives, Kate and Chico board the Isle of Seil ferry to meet Lottie and her pony, Kate's teammates and her friends.

Learning Objectives

Students should be able to

- compare and contrast their culture, family, and work with Kate's culture, family, and work.
- demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of the world's cultures.
- locate Scotland on a map or globe.
- explain the significance of the pony in this culture.

Vocabulary

Luing, Scotland, competition, terrain, fortress, broch, Picts, Romans, channels, blacksmith, farrier, United Kingdom, kiln, anvil, port, ferry, Seil, Middle Ages, paddock, low tide

Pre-Viewing Activities

Locate Scotland on a map or globe. Point out that Scotland is part of the United Kingdom, which also consists of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Ask your students to name the bodies of water that separate the United Kingdom from the European mainland. Make sure students understand where Scotland is in relation to the rest of the world.

Discuss general characteristics of Scotland, such as its size, geography, climate, natural resources, culture, etc.

Ask students to identify a favorite pet or animal friend. Do they have or know of animals that help them or their community? How? Do they know of animals that are both helpers and pets?

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion

Describe Kate's family. Describe their home. What does Kate's father do for a living? Who is Kate's favorite animal friend? What are Kate and Chico training to do?

What did Kate discover about Chico's hoof? What did the blacksmith or farrier make for Chico? Describe the process of making a horseshoe. How is the shoe attached to the hoof?

What method of transportation did Kate's family use to go out to dinner? Why? What are channels? What did Kate eat at the restaurant?

How does Kate get Chico to the riding competition? How many members are on her team? Describe the contests. What is Kate's favorite competition? How well did Kate and her teammates perform?

Compare and contrast your daily routine with Kate's. What similarities and differences are there? How are activities with her family like or unlike yours? How did she learn about her culture's history? How do you learn about yours? How does her recreation compare with yours? Do you have an animal that can be trained to participate in competitive events?

Further Activities

Name some facts you would share with Kate about yourself, your family, your town, your state, and your country.

Ask students to prepare a geographic profile of Scotland, noting its size and location, climate, natural resources, and outstanding cultural characteristics.

Scotland is characterized by an abundance of streams and lakes. Loch Ness is a long, narrow lake in northern Scotland. The lake is reportedly the home of the so-called Loch Ness monster. Do research to find out the details of this famous Scottish legend.

Horse shows are held worldwide and date back to ancient times. During the Olympic Games, horses and riders compete in three equestrian events: dressage, eventing, and jumping. Have students prepare a report on the components of these events.