**Абстракт**

**Тема**: «Загадочная Шотландия»

**Актуальность проблемы заключается** в том, чтобы изучить загадочность Шотландии.

**Гипотеза:** Изучение и исследование загадочности истории Шотландии и пробуждение интереса к стране.

**Цель работы:** Изучить и исследовать загадочность Шотландии с учащимися 7-классов.

**Задачи:**

-выяснить, знают ли учащиеся о Шотландии.

-найти четкую информацию о загадочности Шотландии.

-изучить и исследовать загадочные факты о Шотландии.

-изучить литературу о Шотландии.

**Этапы исследования:** Теоретическое изучение темы: Общая характеристика загадочности Шотландии с учащимися средних классов.

**Методы:** Анкетирования, анализ, наблюдение, исследование.

**Объект исследования:** Загадочная Шотландия.

**Исследовательская часть:** Выбор темы, определение цели и задач объекта исследования, выбор методов исследования, изучение литературы, анкетирование.

**Новизна:** Заключается в том, что загадочность Шотландии актуальна в наши дни.

**Выводы:** Исследуя научную работу, пришли к выводу что Шотландия имеет богатую историю и культуру и много народных сказаний и мифов о загадочных фактах Шотландии.

**Литература**

1. Иностранные языки в школе №1,2006

2. Журина Т.Ю. 55 устных тем по английскому языку для школьников 5 – 11 кл. – 2-е изд.. перераб. – М.: Дрофа, 1997. – 160 с.

3.Книга для чтения на английском языке «О Великобритании вкратце» В.В. Ощепкова, И. И. Шустилова. – М.: «Лист», 1997. – 224 с.

**Abstract**

**Theme:** « Mysterious Scotland»

**The urgency of the problem** is to explore Scotland's mystique.

**Hypothesis**: Exploring and exploring the mystery of Scotland's history and awakening interest in the country.

**Purpose of work:** To study and explore the mystery of Scotland with 9th grade students.

**Tasks:**

- find out if students know about Scotland

-to find clear information about the mystery of Scotland.

- study and explore the mysterious facts about Scotland

- to study literature about Scotland.

**Stages of research:** Theoretical study of the topic: General characteristics of the mystery of Scotland with high school students.

**Methods:** Questioning, analysis, observation, research.

**Object of research:** Mysterious Scotland.

**Research part:** Choice of the topic, determination of the purpose and objectives of the object of research, choice of research methods, literature study, questionnaire.

**Novelty:** It is that the mystery of Scotland is relevant today.

**Conclusions:** Examining the scientific work, came to the conclusion that Scotland has a rich history and culture and many folk tales and myths about the mysterious facts of Scotland.

**Literature**

1. Foreign languages in school №1,2006

2. Zhurina T. Yu. 55 oral topics in English for schoolchildren 5-11 CL. - 2nd ed.. pererab. - M.: bustard, 1997. - 160 PP.

3. Book to read in English "About Britain in brief" by V. V. oschepkova, I. S

**Рецензия**

**На исследовательскую работу ученицы 7 класса «к» КГУ «Средняя школа имени Ы.Алтынсарина» ст Жибек жолы Карасайского района Алматинской области Тищенко Дарьи.**

**«Загадочная Шотландия»**

Исследовательская работа Тищенко Дарьи. посвящена изучению загадочности Шотландии, мифам, сказаниям, народам проживающих в Шотландии. Актуальность темы данной работы обусловлена интересом к истории страны Шотландии.

Эффективное сочетание методов и приемов позволило автору успешно справиться с поставленной целью и достичь следующих результатов.

1)Изучены основные исторические факты загадочности Шотландии.

2) Классифицированы легенды и сказания народа Шотландии.

3)В процессе исследования изучены загадочные окутанные тайной исторические места Шотландии.

Структура работы продиктована ее проблематикой и задачами. Она состоит из ведения трех глав, заключения и списка использованной литературы. На основе теоретического и фактического материала ученица 7 «к» класса изучила и рассмотрела основные аспекты загадочности Шотландии.

В ходе работы над исследованием Тищенко Дарья изучила основные материалы о загадочной Шотландии связанные с культурой, традициями Шотландского народа.

В целом структура исследовательской работы Тищенко Дарьи выстроена логично и позволяет последовательно и в полном объеме решать поставленные задачи.

Считаю, что работа Тищенко Дарьи «Загадочная Шотландия» удовлетворяет требования, предъявляемым исследованиям такого рода и может быть рекомендована для участия в конкурсе «Зерде».

Учитель английского языка Умнова С.В

Высшей категории Утегенова.А.Ж

КГУ им Ы.Алтынсарина

**Content**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Introduction……………………………………………………………………………5 |  |
| 1. Geographical location………………………………………………………………6 |  |
| 2. History of Scottish costume…………………………………………………………7 |  |
| 3. Scottish character…………………………………………………………………...9 |  |
| 4. Customs and traditions of Scots……………………………………………………11 |  |
| 5. Scottish flag………………………………………………………………………..14 |  |
| Conclusion……………………………………………………………………………21 |  |

The list of literature…………………………………………………………………22

**Introduction**

In the life and culture of any nation there are many phenomena, complex in their historical origin and functions. One of the most striking and revealing phenomena of this kind are folk customs and traditions. In order to understand their origins, it is necessary, first of all, to study the history of the people, its culture, to get in touch with its life and way of life, to try to understand its soul and character. Any customs and traditions in the basis reflect life of this or that group of people, and there are they as result of empirical and spiritual knowledge of surrounding reality. In other words, customs and traditions are those precious pearls in the ocean of a people's life that they have collected over the centuries. The customs and traditions of any nation is its “dowry” when joining the huge family of humanity living on the planet Earth. Each ethnic group enriches and improves it with its existence. The theme of customs and traditions of the Scots, as well as any people inhabiting the Earth, is extremely wide and multifaceted. These are topics such as the Scottish national costume and its relationship to the concept of clannishness; ancient agricultural customs of the Scots and their relationship to the cult of vegetation and the sun.

**1. Geographical location.**

Scotland occupies the Northern part of the island of Great Britain and adjacent Islands: Hebrides, Orkney, Shetland. The main territory of Scotland is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the West and North, the North Sea to the East, and the territory of England and the Irish sea to the South. The main bays of the East coast are the Moray Firth to the North and the Firth of forth to the South. The Firth of Clyde washes the South-West coast of Scotland. The highest mountains are the Grampian mountains, stretching across Northern Scotland, which include the highest peak in Scotland, and Britain as a whole, Ben Nevis. Its height is 1,343 m. the main river systems are the Fort and Clyde river systems. Very much in Scotland of mountain lakes, including Loch Lomond and Loch ness Loch ness is probably the most famous lake in Britain, because, say that in him dwells the monster of the prehistoric times - Nessie, but this fact has no evidence, despite numerous testimonies of “eyewitnesses”. Although, undoubtedly, the lake attracts crowds of tourists.

The name "Scotland "occurred in the XI century, when the name" Scotia " was given to the South-Western area inhabited by tribes of Scots. The feudal system in Scotland was founded in the XII century. Edward I of England conquered Scotland in 1296, but the Scots under Wallace and Bruce put up very strong resistance, so in 1328 England recognized the independence of Scotland.

**2**. **History of Scottish costume**

A clan in Scotland is a group of families that share the same surname (for example, MacDonald - “son of Donald”, as "Mac" in Scottish means “son”) and have a common ancestor.

Until 1745, the Scottish clans were ruled by the chieftains. It should be noted that the system of clans is still popular and has survived it is more like a national tradition of Scots. When the Scot recalls his Homeland, it come to mind, saddest moorland, castle ruins, and used his great grandfather's skirt-kilt and pibroch mournful melody of the bagpipes. In Scotland, clan affiliation was determined by the costume, especially the male kilt skirt. The coloring of the skirt should be specific - in accordance with tartan-woolen matter with a sample of lines of different widths and different colors that intersect each other at certain angles. There are many different tartans, each associated with a specific Scottish clan. Every clan in the Highlands has a certain associated color and a certain verified pattern that clan members wear on kilts and plaids. And wearing someone else's colors is a social violation. This is strictly overseen in Scotland by the responsible person, the Chief Herald, Keeper of coats of arms and clan seniority. In his difficult duty is to ensure that no unauthorized appropriated the titles, other people's cells not brought the bagpipes during the ceremonial March of a tune that clan. From all parts of the world come to him requests relatively clan belonging and symbolism. Even the American, Australian, new Zealand, canadian generations of Scots have not lost interest in the ancestral ancestral customs and traditions, remember their roots and more and more come to the thought: “Wherever we are, we - the Scots!” Each clan has its own holiday, and on this day all members of the clan wear their costume, wherever they are.

Traditionally, in addition to the kilt skirt, the Scottish national costume includes a tweed jacket, simple long stockings, a beret and a leather sporran - a purse that hangs on a narrow strap covering the hips. This version of the costume is worn during the day. For the evening there is another version of the costume-kilt skirt is worn with fur sporran, stockings with its specific tartan,

a sophisticated jacket and a ruffled shirt. Scotch bonnet - "tumescence" is a woolen hat cap with a pompon or a feather at the top. Usually temerante are slightly shifted on one side. The name of his beret received from the name of the hero of the poem by Robert burns of the same name. We should also mention such detail of costume like a knife. The true Highlander behind his right stocking must carry a knife, on the handle of which is engraved a Thistle flower and set a Topaz. It should be noted that if the Highlander stuck a knife on the inside of the leg, then according to Scottish tradition it meant-a Declaration of war. Peaceful people always carry a knife on the outside. Traditions of wearing their costume by the Scots are so strong that an example is an excerpt from L. Martynov's article about how one day the canadian traveler and writer Arctic Explorer Farley Mowat visited Moscow at the end of November. "It was at the very end of November," writes L.

Martynov, " Mowett appeared in a Scottish suit: in a short skirt, thick plaid woolen stockings, rolled up under the knees. A huge purse with a sporran moose - fur trim slid from under his jacket down to his skirt. The tradition of clan colors appeared not so long ago. The English once forbade the Scots to wear the national costume. This was in 1746, when in the battle of Culloden y Inverness highlands, the Scots lost the chance of independence. The ban was in force until 1782, and when it was abolished, it turned out that the old patterns - forgotten. Had to invent the new, recorded for every so it.

Regarding such a basic detail of the Scottish national costume as kilt skirt, it should be noted that it was worn before not all Scots, but only highlanders-highlanders. Highland includes the highest mountains of the British Isles, the wildest lakes and Islands. By their origin highlanders consider themselves Celts. They pride themselves on being descendants of the Scots, who came to Britain from Ireland in the sixth century, and they call themselves "the Scots". Several thousand Scots who live by the lakes in the Western Highlands and the Hebrides still speak Scottish Gaelic, an ancient Celtic language that is very similar to Irish Gaul and akin to Welsh. The Highlander farmers, or "crofters," as they are called here, lead a hard and simple life, farming and raising cattle: growing oats and potatoes, raising sheep and cows, fishing. Kilt for some highlanders and is still everyday clothing. Highlanders feel superior to lowlanders-the inhabitants of the plain, most of whom are descendants of the Danes and Anglo-Saxons. Only forty-odd years had passed since the lowlanders had adopted the highland costume, but it was a tradition. Traditions arise in different ways, but when they arise, they tend not to die. The origin of Scottish traditions is the desire to defend their identity at all costs. Moreover, the English kings tried this identity is eradicated, but the Scottish resistant and stubborn nature resists “SAS-the sen” - the dismissive word the Scots called the English.

**3**. **Scottish character.**

The severity and stubbornness of the Scottish character could not be better and more clearly expressed in the emblem of the national flag of Scotland – the Thistle. An interesting legend about the origin of this national emblem.

In ancient times, the Vikings landed on the East coast of Scotland with the intention to capture and plunder the country. The Scots assembled all their fighting forces and took up a position across the river Tay, a large river in Scotland, at a place where there was a convenient Ford. As they arrived in the evening, tired and exhausted after a long March, they camped and rested, believing that the enemy would not advance until the next day. However, the Vikings were nearby; finding no guards or sentries around the Scott camp, the Vikings crossed the Tay, with the intention of suddenly capturing the Scots and slaughtering them in their sleep. To this end, they took off their shoes, so as to make as little noise as possible when moving to the camp. But suddenly one of the Vikings stepped on a Thistle. He cried out in sudden, sharp pain. Hearing the cry, the Scots raised the alarm in the camp. The Vikings were forced to retreat, and the Thistle, in gratitude for the timely and unexpected assistance, the Scots chose as their national emblem.

The Scots were excellent and brave archers. As one of military honourable traditions of Scots-protection of the Queen archers, in case of her arrival. This tradition followed since ancient times when the kings of Scotland had a right to demand from all the clans archers for personal protection. The archers ' guard is now four hundred middle-aged landowners, who, in the event of the Queen's arrival in Scotland, are to leave all business and come to guard her, armed with bows and arrows. And commanders of divisions also meticulously check elasticity of a bowstring and sharpness of tips as it did

in the TWELFTH century. And each of the older archers is able to pierce a thick Board with an arrow-tradition requires each of the hereditary members of the guard to train relentlessly with the prescribed type of weapon. Of course, all this takes time, but, as in Scotland, performing traditional and family responsibilities better just solder the clan. And belonging to a cohesive, even archaic, organization helps to live in today's fragile world. After all a member of clan unmistakably hopes on support brethren. At the meetings of the clans there are always bagpipes, music which delights the ear of representatives of clans happen competitions in caber toss - cabera, in the

run up the hill dancing, one of which is dancing and jumping over crossed swords - a good old Scottish dance, eat Haggis and smoked sheep's stomach stuffed with meat and spices. This is a very hearty, although unaccustomed not very tasty dish. Scots eat Haggis with mashed potatoes or turnip puree.

So, from all the above it is clear that geographical conditions affect the customs of certain peoples, for example, in connection with the mountainous terrain there was a well-known male skirt-kilt, which has become a bright distinctive feature of the Scots. You can also see that the history of Scotland was quite rich. The country survived the Viking raids, the conquest by the Romans, who tried to introduce their culture. And even though the Scots rejected it in their struggle for independence, there was still some confusion.

**4. Customs and traditions of Scots.**

Since the Scots are mainly farmers, and their customs have long been, first of all, the customs of farmers and breeders. Their whole working life was closely connected with nature: the sun, rain, other natural phenomena, the yield of the fields, the fertility of the cattle, the change of seasons, the change of day and night. The ancient Celts divided the year into cold (from the holiday of Samhain) and warm (from the holiday of Beltan) periods. Counting cold period Celts waged with time arrival cattle with pastures, and the beginning of warm - from pasture cattle on pasture. Labor experience has convinced people that the periods of agricultural work should be coordinated with the movement of the moon and the Sun.

A striking example of the development of astronomical knowledge and their use by the peoples of the West can serve as cromlech Stonehenge, located in England between Bristol and Salisbury, as well as Scottish Stonehenge, which has already been mentioned above, located near Stornoway - the capital of O. Harris and O. Lewis (Hebrides). These structures were two concentric circles. English Stonehenge consisted of 38 pairs of vertically standing stones, its design also included a third construction of hewn stones dug into the ground, covered with stone slabs. Scottish Stonehenge consisted of 13 monoliths. In the center of these structures stood one huge stone-monolith, and to the North-East of it outside the structure-another.

The researchers drew attention to the fact that the axis of each of these mysterious structures, held from the Central monolith to the outer, directed to the point of the horizon, where the sun rises on the summer solstice. These cromlechs are undoubtedly the oldest astronomical structures in Europe for observing the sunrise and sunset of the heavenly bodies - the Sun and the moon, which is necessary to determine the time. According to legends, before such altars druids (Celtic priests) performed a solemn service on June 21, which began at the first rays of the sun.

In recent years in of England adherents of Celtic antiquity was organized a modern the order druids, members which try to reconstruct old Druidic rituals and ceremony. At the initiative of the order, the annual summer solstice service at Stonehenge began again, and it takes place in the same place and at the same hour as in ancient times. Scottish poet Robert burns is an integral part of Scottish culture. The Scots are very proud of their famous compatriot and honor his memory. Every year on 25 January (his birthday) a festival called "burns Night"is held. This holiday is held not only in Scotland, but also in many areas of Britain. The celebration is usually held in the form of a dinner, which serves traditional Scottish dishes and during which Scottish pipers play, dressed in national costumes, read poems by Robert burns. Especially popular among Scots poem burns "in the mountains my heart", which is full of love for Scotland-the birthplace of the poet.

Ophelia

Speaking of Scotland and its Islands, not to mention a famous traditional Scottish celebration as Aphelia, which are currently in Lerwick, the main town of Scottish Islands. Ophelia is a relatively young holiday, which originated about six centuries ago in the Scottish villages. In the 70s of the XIX century, young people decided to make a number of small innovations in the General fun. Thanks to their efforts, the name of the holiday was fixed and it began to be held on the last Tuesday of January. Both adults and children wear specially sewn for this event Viking costumes. Here all as truly: horned helmets, weapons, chain mail. In the kind of clothes the local people solemnly marching on a peaceful city streets. At the end of January there is a great torchlight procession and a thirty-foot model Viking ship sweeps through the city to be burned. Then after this Grand show-dancing and fun last well into the night.

Yule Log

The winter holidays also include Christmas, as being Christians, and Christianity in Scotland began to spread from VI to ad, Scots celebrate this day (December 25), like all Nations of Europe. But there is also a long tradition among the Scots, celebrated by them now on Christmas eve. This custom is called "Yul Log" (Christmas log).

The custom is associated with The Yul festival, the ancient Scandinavian festival of burning "Yul log". It became popular in Scotland because part of the Scottish Islands has long been under the rule of the Vikings and their cultural influence. The ancient Scots celebrated Yule at the time of the year and on the days now celebrated Christmas. To burn a huge Yule log, to the sun shone brighter. Here again you can see a direct link with the pagan custom solar cult.

In the New Year in Scotland (or as it is called here Hogmany) also open the doors of all the houses anyone can visit in any family. The guest is supposed to bring only a piece of coal and throw it into the family fireplace with the wish that the fire in this house burned for a long time. Here again traced pagan basis Scottish custom-fire as a symbol of well-being and life.

In February, especially among young people, popular holiday Valentine's Day. This holiday has no deep religious basis, it is associated with a touching and sad story of two lovers. Legend has it that in the III century ad, the Roman Emperor Claudius II issued a decree forbidding people to marry. He believed that marriage kept men at home, and that their destiny was to be good soldiers and to fight valiantly for Rome. The young Christian priest Valentin did not heed the decree and secretly married the young lovers. Upon discovering these" anti-state " marriages, the Emperor ordered the offender to be imprisoned and then executed. In prison, Valentine, deprived of his sacred books, diversified his enforced leisure by writing notes to the jailer's daughter. Apparently, and notes were are good, and daughter. The young people fell in love. Before his execution on 14 February 270 years he sent the girl a farewell note with a brief phrase “from your Valentine”, which later came to mean eternal affection and loyalty. And the date of the death of the priest, who betrothed lovers, despite severe obstacles, and did not see his own happiness, forever remained in the memory of people.

In England and Scotland Valentine's day - Valentine's day - was accompanied by a secret presentation of gifts and cards with “ meaning ”. On the evening of February 13, rich and poor admirers put their gifts on the steps of the cherished door, rang and ran away. Greeting card, as such, generally appeared for the first time in connection with Valentine's day. They say Charles, Duke of Orleans, sent it first. Gradually the custom of giving extended to the spouses, who Express to each other in this way their loyalty and love. And gifts have become increasingly replaced by bouquets. The color emblem of Valentine's Day is considered to be a red rose. It is believed that the beginning of this tradition put Louis HSH, who gave this day to Marie Antoinette red roses. After all, according to ancient legend, they appeared thanks to Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty. Hurrying to Adonis, her lover, she stepped on a Bush of white roses, pricked her foot on the thorns and her divine blood dyed them scarlet. The rich and ambiguous history of great Britain manifests itself in one of the main symbols of the country. First, I would like to mention that this emblem has the name "Unioin Jack". It unites not only 4 countries, their past and present, but also three saints. In ancient times, each state had its own symbol and patron.

**5. British flag.**

I would like to talk about the national flag of Britain. The rich and ambiguous history of Great Britain manifests itself in one of the main symbols of the country. First, I would like to mention that this emblem has the name "Union Jack". It unites not only 4 countries, their past and present, but also three saints. In ancient times, each state had its own symbol and patron. Let's look at the picture. What we see? Many colored lines that intersect with each other. It is worth noting that this is not just so. Each color and cross symbolizes something and someone.

1. Scottish important state events were accompanied by a blue flag with a white cross on the diagonal. It is also called St. Andrew's Cross is the patron Saint.

2. The English flag at that time was a red cross on a white background. It was he who symbolized the patron Saint of the country of St. George, who is considered such since 1277. It was called St. George's Cross. Along with the flag was often used and a banner with the image of this Saint.

3. The Irish flag was a diagonal red cross on a white background. It was he who was the symbol of the Irish for a long time-St. Patrick's Cross.

Association

The history of the United Kingdom of great Britain and Ireland includes many battles, conquests and other events. In 1707, Scotland and England were officially declared a single country, and thus their symbols of independence United. If we look at the pictures of the English flag, we notice that the blue background combined white cross and red straight.

A century later, in 1801, Ireland was annexed to great Britain, and the symbol of the Kingdom was decorated with another red cross on the diagonal, which almost coincided with the white lines. Since then, the English flag has remained unchanged. However, it is worth mentioning that in 1937 Ireland separated from the Kingdom, declaring its independence. Only the Northern part, or to be more specific, the County of Ulster remained part of this country. But Union Jack has not changed. Wales also claimed a piece on the national emblem. Consider the dragon as a symbol of the Welsh flag, placed in the middle, where all lines are combined. But, as to this day it is visible, the decision isn't made.

Graphic features

England, being the leading country in this Union, occupies a leading position on the flag. The George cross is the largest, followed by the cross of Scotland and Northern Ireland. It is worth mentioning that the width is half the length.

Having looked at pictures, having read about historical events, we understood these crosses and lines. The main thing is to remember the name of the English flag- "Union Jack", and know that it combines the symbols of 3 countries.

The Isle Of Arran. A small island, measuring sixteen by thirty-two kilometers, which the locals call " Scotland in miniature." This piece of land was nicknamed this way because it contains everything that characterizes this country: stunning hilly landscapes, untouched magnificent wildlife, a great Golf course, "distillery", the ancient castle Brodick. Arran can be reached by ferry from Ardrossan. The journey takes about an hour. Although the island is small, to thoroughly explore its attractions, you will need at least a couple of days. Get acquainted with the island life start with the castle, which is located in the eponymous town of Brodick, which is conveniently located on the shore of the picturesque Firth of Clyde. It was built in the fifth century, on the site of a fortified Gaelic settlement, later inhabited by Vikings who invaded the island. The castle took a very convenient position at the mouth of the river, which is why it has always been the most important Outpost of the country, for the possession of which, was fought incessant struggle. Today, visitors to the castle can get acquainted with its valuable collections of artifacts that have a six - hundred-year history, inseparable from the history of the famous family of the Dukes of Hamilton-the owners of Brodick castle. Especially impressive is the unique collection of silver and porcelain. From the castle Windows you can enjoy spectacular views of Brodick Bay and the Ayrshire coast. While on the island of Arran, be sure to visit the magnificent Botanical garden, where majestic rhododendrons, magnolias and ancient trees grow. On the island you can observe the life of many birds, seals, deer and puffins. Be sure to join the local delicacies: delicious local cheeses, ice cream and specialty beer. I must say that trips to the island of Arran, popular among travelers who bought gastronomic tours. Of the local products, the most loved by gourmets – beet chutney and cheese with herbs. This small island has its own chocolate factory where you can buy sweet gifts for your friends and family. The Northern part of Arran is famous for "distillery", opened here in 1995. You will recognize it from afar, by its copper roof. Here you can not only get acquainted with the history of the drink and hold its tasting, but also buy your favorite copies. In the Eastern part of the island, near the village-port of Corry, tourists can see the limestone caves left after the old quarries. Quarrying stopped and they were empty for a while, but pragmatic Scots decided to adapt them for the repair of their boats. The whole island is simply steeped in history, traces of which are reflected everywhere: here you can see the burial of the Vikings, boulders, mystical purpose, similar to the stones of Stonehenge. You can find them at the settlement Mahri. If you are traveling to Isle of Arran in the summer, it is possible on a small ferry to reach the neighboring small Islands, where plenty of work up in the middle of nature Source. Another famous natural attraction of Scotland - a large freshwater lake Loch ness, famous all over the world, thanks to the alleged mythical monster that lives there. The very first legends and eyewitness accounts of this mysterious inhabitant of the reservoir appeared in the middle of the sixth century. Since then, they only multiply, but there is no clue until now. 565-th year. Loch ness occupies sixty-five square kilometers of territory, its depth is more than two hundred and thirty meters. In General, the lake is not a closed system, it is part of the Caledonian canal connecting the two Scottish seacoasts. That's why, many scientists explain the elusiveness of the legendary Loch Ness monster. It's constantly migrating. Researchers claim that "Nessie" is an ancient, miraculously survived, genus of dinosaurs. This is quite possible, taking into account the fact that Loch ness was formed during the ice age. On the shore of this famous reservoir of Scotland is the medieval castle Urquhart. Today, it is rather a very picturesque ruins, covered with mystical mysteries. From the old buildings remained the base of the walls, well preserved first floor entrance castle towers, still visible dilapidated donjon. In General, the history of Urquhart castle dates back to the sixth century. This can be found in the manuscript of Adomnan, setting out the biography of St. Columbus. He came to Scotland to convert the local pagans to Christianity. It also describes the journey of the Saint to the river ness. But, truth, real information about constructions those since the in manuscripts there is no. On the other hand, Urquhart castle is mentioned in documents Dating back to the thirteenth century. It was in 1296 when king Edward I of England entered Scotland and Urquhart castle was attacked and captured. The Isle Of Staffa. The main attraction of this small island, located on the West coast of the country, is Fingal's cave. This place attracted the ancient Vikings, who called it " the Island of columns." The island attracts many travelers with its unearthly landscape: it stands on high hexagonal pillars formed as a result of the rapid release of lava from the bowels of the earth. As it cooled, the lava crystallized into such an unusual shape. This quirkiness of the island gives rise to legends. One of them says that the construction of pillars-the work of ancient giants, paving the way to the mainland, who lived on the island in ancient times. The island is also famous for numerous mysterious caves of natural origin. So, Fingal's cave was washed in a powerful basalt rock by sea waves. This cave is also called "singing" because of its amazing acoustic properties. The Orkney Islands are a group of sixty-seven Islands lying North of the Scottish coast of Caithness. Of all the Islands, only a third are inhabited. They used to belong to Norway, but in 1468, king James the Third, annexed them to the Scottish possessions, as collateral for the dowry, which, incidentally, has not been paid. Until now, Norway does not recognize these Islands as part of Scotland. Here everything breathes history and antiquity, that's why many Islands are called part of the world historical heritage. For example, perfectly preserved to this day the ancient village of Skara Bray. And also, huge cromlechs and ancient dolmens, which are ancient temples. These majestic stones used to serve druids-Magi assistants in rituals, as well as the real working "tools". The stones are arranged in a system strictly corresponding to the lunar and solar cycles, thus being a calendar. And there are plenty of such structures on Orkney. Most of the buildings on the scale and age even surpass Stonehenge. For example, the stone complex "New temple" was erected eight centuries before the construction of Stonehenge. One of the main megaliths of the Orkney Islands is the Brogar ring: a few small boulders-the remains of ancient menhirs. According to ancient legends, the ring is the only thing that was left to us by the ruined castle of hotenow giant that lived on the island in ancient times. Then the castle was destroyed by the aces, led by Odin. Excavations and discoveries continue here to this day. Here, quite recently, near East Mainland discovered mound mine Howe, in its depths are stone steps. In Garness, on the Meyland Islands, tourists can see the magnificent tomb of Broch. The most interesting for reference guides called the tomb of Midgar Broch, on the island Raasay. By the way, this island has many Neolithic graves, so it is called "Northern Egypt". And on Orkney Islands you can look round the Church Ahira, the count's Palace to Beers, Ducal and Episcopal Palace Kirkwall, a historic Martello tower in the settlement of Howe, the ancient castle Notangle's what westray in the castle and the magnificent Cathedral of St. Magnus, located in Kirkwall. For those who prefer ecotourism sightseeing tours, it is necessary to visit the numerous castles of amazing Scotland. There will be plenty to choose from, because the castles in this country more than three thousand, and many of them are not ruins, but rather well-preserved buildings. And what is especially nice, in some of them you can live, as many castles are now converted into comfortable hotels. And as usual, in every second Scottish castle, lives one or more ghosts. The most famous castle in Scotland-Edinburgh castle - an ancient fortress, firmly standing on an extinct volcano, in the heart of the capital – Edinburgh. This fortress is called "the key to Scotland" for a reason, because according to an ancient legend, the one who owns the castle, owns the whole country. The huge castle is interesting architecture, interior decoration, its history, legends associated with it. Edinburgh castle is not a Royal residence, but a well-fortified, impregnable fortress, which until recently was part of the Department of defense and was closed to tourists. Today, on the territory of the castle conducted archaeological excavations, thanks to them, was confirmed the correctness of the author of several volumes of history of Scotland-Andrew Winston, who claimed that the first settlers appeared on the" Castle rock " a thousand before Christ. Discovered objects, scientists subjected to carbon analysis, which confirmed their age. During its history, the castle was subjected to destruction, wars, restoration. The last significant event for the castle and the country took place in 1818. The notorious Walter Scott, having received permission from the authorities to explore the fortification, found there the hidden crown of Scotland! Travelers begin exploring the fortress with a visit to the chapel of St. Margaret - the current Catholic Church and the oldest buildings of the United Kingdom. We can say that the castle is completely a Museum, everywhere, even within the walls of its barracks, in the "Governor's House", in the many huge halls, prison cells – there are numerous exhibitions telling about the history of its appearance and the constant struggle of Scotland for independence. The castle contains the "Stone of destiny" - "the stone of Scone", which according to legend, there are more than three thousand years. Once it belonged to the daughter of the Pharaoh of Egypt - Ramesses the Second, she brought it to this Northern country. Sitting on this stone crowned all Scottish monarchs, believing that he gives them insight and wisdom. Medieval walls store other treasures: ancient weapons, ancient jewelry, and other historical values. If you are lucky enough to visit the castle at the end of August, you will get to the Festival of the best military bands in the world. Enchanting opening of the festival itself, when the courtyard of the fortress are columns of Scottish drummers in national costumes, beating the drum, they are replaced by pipers, the national music of Scotland. Stirling castle-is one of the largest and most significant Scottish castles. It stands on an extinct volcano, and on three sides, it is surrounded by high cliffs. This arrangement gave the fortress advantages in defense, in addition, the castle has always provided control over the crossing of the local river Fort. The bridge at Stirling was the most downstream of the river crossing, therefore had a strategic importance. Stirling has long stood guard over the main Northern routes of Scotland, the first fortification, which arose here, refer to the seventh century, but according to some information, the advantages of such a strengthening was used by the Romans in the first century. Stirling was the Royal residence for the infamous Queen of Scotland - Mary Stuart. They say that in this fortress, she almost burned alive in her own bed, because of the fire of the curtains from the candle. But, at the cost of his life saved the girl's a maid. Since then, the castle Stirling appeared his Ghost - "Green lady", as the girl on the day of death was wearing a green dress. They say that it is often seen in different places of the building and the appearance of misty green silhouette is preceded by some disasters. Guides claim that after such meetings, there were several fires. Stirling castle is also interesting from an architectural point of view, its style is mixed, due to the restructuring that took place over many centuries: here you can find elements from the Renaissance style to the magnificent late Gothic. Magnificent castle and inside. Strolling through the courtyard, travelers can see ancient cannons and magnificent statues. There is a regimental Museum on the territory of the fortress. By the way, in the castle, in addition to the "Green lady" lives another Ghost – "Soldier". Glamis castle-a surprisingly beautiful place, surrounded by picturesque gardens, and the most mystical in Scotland, known as"the building, with off-scale number of ghosts per square centimeter." Today, Glamis castle looks completely different from what was originally conceived in 1400. It was decorated with additional extensions adjacent to the main tower and small graceful turrets, all the result of improvements of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Now one wing of the castle is a Museum and the other live hosts: Strasmore the count and Countess Kinghorn. The Earl's family has owned the local lands since 1372, and Glamis castle was built by their direct ancestor. The castle is located near Edinburgh, on the lands of Angus, it is surrounded by a mysterious, dense forest. It is worth telling about the strange and mystical stories associated with this place. As mentioned above, there are many ghosts. Guides will show you in one of the rooms, a blood stain, well preserved on the wooden floor, it is a trace of the murder of king Malcolm, often here appears in the form of a transparent entity. And in the castle there are walled room, where still often heard strange noises, voices. The guides say that it is count Alexander Lindsay Crawford who has been playing cards with the devil for six centuries. And they confirm their story with the existence of an extra window on the facade of the building, it is impossible to get into that room from the inside, as it is carefully walled up. Still here encounter the specter of "Gray lady", she lives in chapel. It is said to be the lady Janet, burned on a far-fetched charge of witchcraft, in 1537. Its see very often, in family chapel for it even reserved place, borrow which no one has rights. In the chapel, it is most often seen. There is also the Ghost of the "White Lady", however, no one knows who she is, but the servants of the castle note that she moves very quickly and often accompanies cars approaching the castle. The castle yard was haunted by the Ghost of " a Woman with a disfigured face." In The Queen Mother's living room, the Ghost of a black servant boy can be seen. They say that he was treated very badly three centuries ago. People are constantly living in a castle, say they often Wake up from the sight of "Men in armor" who loves to get into locked rooms, and look at the sleeping, but the damage does not cause, but only scares a surprise appearance. In Windows of the castle often emerges pale face specter of men, subjected in a castle torture. In addition, the roof of the castle one goes regularly, loud stomping. Here is such puzzling and a bit frightening place! Castle Dunvegan located on the Northern tip of the Isle of Skye is the ancestral castle of the famous Scottish clan the MacLeod. It is also the oldest inhabited castle in Europe. Some of its buildings date back to the ninth century, but most of them belong to the twelfth century. Dunvegan was never owned by the state, it was always privately owned. The Macleod family's priceless relics, the fairy Flag and The dunvegan Cup, are kept here. According to ancient legend, the flag was given to the clan by the fairy Queen, who promised to come to the rescue three times when the banner was raised over the castle. Magical help used twice, Macleod now have the last opportunity. Treasure of the castle for a long time was "the Magic of the bagpipes Makimono" owned for thirteen generations the undisputed pipers of Macleod chiefs. According to legend, the magical fairies gave a silver pipe for bagpipes young Mccrimon, it made his game divine. But the phone lost musical glory of Makimono set, but the glory of the Dunvegan castle left, and then annually hold competitions for playing the bagpipes. Of course, a trip to Scotland will not be complete without getting acquainted with its cities. Edinburgh tops the ranking of the most beautiful cities in the country. About one of the castles we have already said above, but worth mentioning another significant city landmark – the Royal Palace Holyroodhouse. First, in 1128, there was built the Abbey of the Holy cross - "Holyrood Abbey", in honor of the miraculous salvation on this site of the Scottish king David the First. In Holyrood often stayed to stay Royal person, but since it was impossible to live in the temple for a long time, and placed in monastic cells was not on the status, next to the Abbey built a small guest house - Holyroodhouse. Gradually a modest house turned into a magnificent building. And in the sixteenth century, king James the Fourth ordered to build in its place a real Palace. There were many historical events. At one time, in Holyroodhouse lived Queen Mary, by the way, it was here that the daggers of the conspirators was stabbed her Secretary, and as they said, the lover - Italian Riccio. And according to the best British traditions, the murder scene marked indelible bloodstain, and that visitors do not miss this place, there is a special information plate. Tourists can see Mary's chambers and the Queen's Gallery, which hosts temporary exhibitions of some of the treasures of the Royal collection. The Palace can be visited on any day except the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth of December, when there are members of the Royal family on a traditional visit. Of course, as in any self-respecting Scottish castle here lives his Ghost, it belongs to Agnes Sampson, who at one time was a healer and midwife, but during the "witch hunt" she was accused of witchcraft, brought to Holyroodhouse, stripped naked, tortured, then strangled, burned. Now her Ghost walks the premises of the Royal Palace in an obscene form. After visiting the Palace, you can go to Holyrood Park, located just behind it. Here before your eyes stretches a majestic landscape of hills, lakes, the ruins of the chapel of St. Anthony, and in the Central part of the Park is an amazing hill "Arthur's Throne". If you are lucky with the weather, and there is no fog, then you can admire the beautiful views of the city. However to climb the hill will have at least an hour, because its height is two hundred and fifty one meter. Dowries say that on the first of may, unmarried Scottish women washed with dew collected on the slopes of the hill, making their skin become fresher, more beautiful. In Edinburgh you can see a lot of interesting things: wander through the medieval Old town, visit the beautiful Cathedral of St. Giles, walk along the Royal Mile. Glasgow is the greenest city in the country and one of the most dynamic, stylish cities in Europe. It is an hour's drive from Edinburgh. I must say that the city is considered the shopping center of Scotland, in addition, its festival and nightlife, attracts a lot of travelers. It is safe to say that Glasgow - the most student city in the country, there are many educational institutions. But youth and enthusiasm are harmoniously combined with the most ancient architectural and cultural monuments. For centuries Glasgow has been called "the second city of the Empire", the magnificent urban architecture clearly testifies to the important role of the city in the history of great Britain, buildings in different architectural styles: Baroque, Gothic, Victorian, neoclassical, replace each other like beads on a string. Glasgow's most significant landmarks are in its historic centre, starting at the heart of the city - George square. You can see the city Necropolis of Glasgow-Museum-cemetery, where fifty thousand people are buried, here you can see the majestic tombs and family crypts. Be sure to look at the people's Palace, the Cathedral of St. Mungo, go to the local Botanical garden, known all over the world. Perth – an ancient city, standing on the banks of the longest Scottish river Tay, famous for the fact that in the middle ages was the capital of Scotland. It is rich in ancient attractions and is located eighty kilometers from Edinburgh. On the way to it you will meet many monuments and enjoy the beautiful local places. The city itself is small, but it boils active life. Main attractions: the imposing Church of St. John, a lovely art gallery, the city Museum, Balhousie castle, where the Museum of the Black watch. In General, fans of gastronomic tours, would not miss this city, because it is a recognized gastronomic center of Scotland, with the best cafes and restaurants. Perth also has beautiful gardens and parks, as well as many great Golf courses. Talk about the beauty of the amazing country of Scotland can be endless, as well as to describe its charms, so we offer you to make an independent journey .

**Conclusion.**

The result of the research activity is the dialectical unity of the ideal and material product, namely: the ideal product-made on the basis of the studied information conclusions and conclusions formed knowledge.

1. I know the names of various Scottish holidays and their traditions ;

2. I have a clear idea of the mysterious country-Scotland;

3. I know the history of The British flag;

4. I am aware of the possibility of developing this topic in the future and continuing further work on the project due to the great interest in the object and subject of study;

1. work with various sources of information (Internet, educational literature and additional literature, audio and video films);

2. to carry out selection and systematization of only necessary information;

3. make a computer presentation;

4. tell in English about Christmas, New year and Valentine's Day.

The material product is a computer presentation as a result of the idea of the customs and traditions of mysterious Scotland.

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