

Famous facts about



SCOTLAND



FAMOUS HISTORICAL FIGURES



William Wallace (1272-1305)

William Wallace was a Scottish outlaw and hero who fought the English to gain Scottish independence. He and his small army famously defeated the English army at the Battle of Stirling Bridge.



Mary, Queen of Scots (1542- 1587)

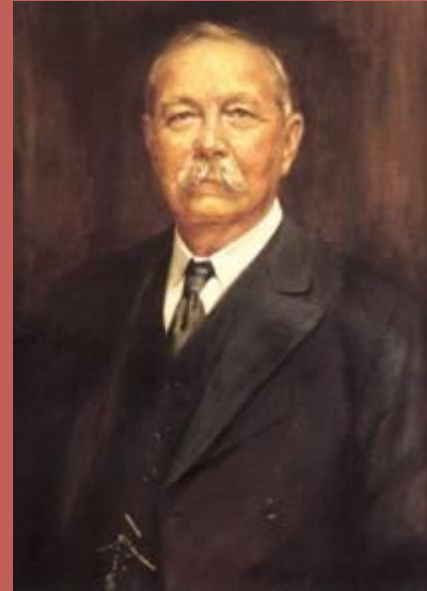
Mary Stuart was Queen of Scotland about 425 years ago. She became queen when she was less than a year old. She married three times and was eventually accused of plotting to kill queen Elizabeth I of England. She was executed in 1587 at the age of 45.



FAMOUS WRITERS

Arthur Conan Doyle

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was the author of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and many other stories. The most famous character in his books was the detective Sherlock Holmes.



Robert Louis Stevenson

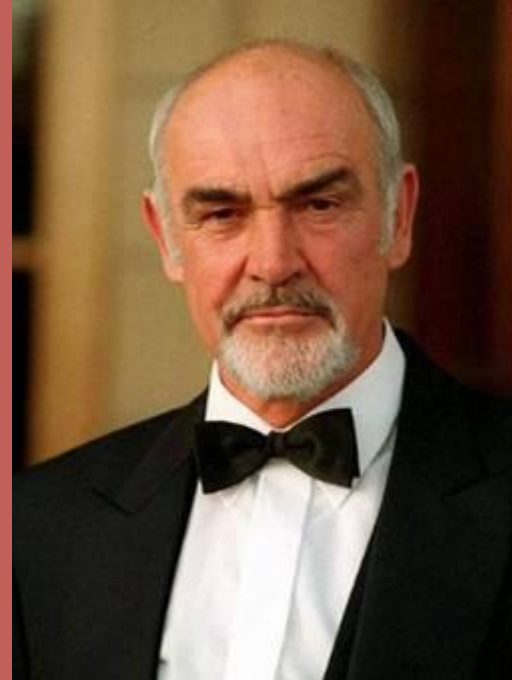
Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh. He wrote *Treasure Island* during a rainy holiday in 1883. Other famous books he wrote were *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *Kidnapped*.



FAMOUS ACTORS

Sean Connery

Sir Sean Connery, who was born in Edinburgh in 1930, came from a poor background. He became a famous film actor after his leading role in the *James Bond* films.



Ewan McGregor

Ewan McGregor was an almost unknown Scottish actor until he appeared in *Trainspotting*, a tough film about the lives of drop-outs in Edinburgh. After that he played Obi-Wan Kenobi in the second *Star Wars Trilogy* and has appeared in many other films since then.



FAMOUS TRADITIONS

The tartan kilt

A kilt is a skirt-like garment made of tartan wool. Historically, each Scottish clan (a family or tribe) has its own tartan pattern. Pipers usually wear kilts when they play the bagpipes, and Scottish men often wear kilts at formal social occasions, like weddings.



The Loch Ness Monster

Loch Ness is a very deep lake in the north of Scotland. Some people believe that they have seen a large dinosaur-like “monster” in Loch Ness. For this reason, Loch Ness is one of Scotland’s top tourist attractions.

