



# Scotland and Wales: Houses of their Own

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1. Work in small groups and create three lists of all the pieces of information, large or small, that you know about Scotland, Wales, and England. Share your findings with other groups and then create a class list. Now examine the compiled list and try to determine the sources of your knowledge.
2. Examine the compiled list once again and group similar items together. Invent categories that describe the groups of items. For example, some items might be categorized as historical while others might be categorized as art.
3. What elements of these lists, in your opinion, describe the *culture* of the three countries? Suggest why you think the items are cultural.
4. With reference to the three lists, suggest the following:
  - (a) How you think Scotland, Wales, and England are similar and how do you think they are different?
  - (b) From your pre-existing knowledge, which seems to be the most different from England, Scotland or Wales? Can you explain why?
5. Suggest what might occur when two cultures appear to have more differences than similarities.
6. For hundreds of years, the leaders of Scotland and Wales went into battle with swords, truncheons, longbows, and muskets and fought for independence from England. Today, the quest for a degree of independence from England, involves negotiation, focus groups, government white papers, public opinion polls, and referendums. Discuss the following:
7. What is *devolution* and how does it apply to this news story? What were the factors that brought about devolution in Scotland and Wales? Suggest the difference between *devolution*, *evolution*, and *revolution*. What is common to all three words and how do they differ?
8. Why has there been disagreement about devolution in Great Britain? Why would there be disagreement in Scotland and Wales particularly?
9. The issues of national unity and minority cultures with distinct identities working for political independence are all too familiar to Canadians. In a brief essay, compare Canada and the Scottish and Welsh experience and determine to what extent they are a similar expression of the same phenomenon. Are there any lessons the Scottish or Welsh can learn from the Quebec independence movement? Are there any lessons Quebec can learn from the Scottish and Welsh? How are the language debates in each culture similar?