

Edinburgh

Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland and the seventh largest city in the United Kingdom. It's located in the South East of Scotland, on the Firth of Forth (the beautiful estuary of the River Forth), near the North Sea. Because of its architecture, Edinburgh is considered one of the most picturesque cities in Europe. It has been the capital of Scotland since 1437 and is also the seat of the new Scottish Parliament.

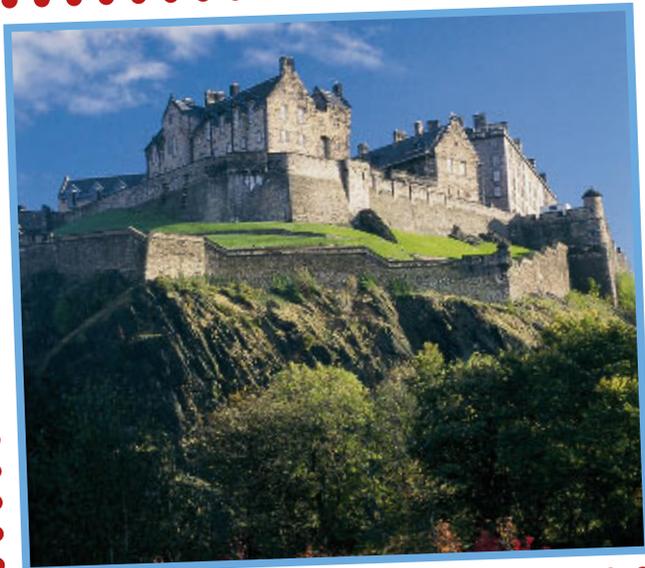
Highlights

Edinburgh is well-known for its annual Arts Festival, a collection of cultural festivals held each year during August and September! Tourists in the city love the **Edinburgh Military Tattoo**, a colourful exhibition of military skills and music which takes place in front of **Edinburgh Castle**.

The historic centre of Edinburgh is divided in two by **Princes Street Gardens**, which traditionally separate the New Town from the Old Town. Other must-see places are **The Royal Mile** (a one-mile-long street which leads to the Castle), **Princes Street** (a real paradise for shoppers!) and the **Scott Monument**, dedicated to Sir Walter Scott, the creator of *Ivanhoe*, from which you can see an incredible panorama of the city.



Edinburgh is sometimes nicknamed *Auld Reekie* (Scottish for 'Old Smoky'), referring to the historic period when buildings were heated by coal and wood fires, and chimneys sent tall columns of dark smoke into the air.



1 Now answer these questions.

- 1 What is the capital city of Scotland?
- 2 Why is Edinburgh considered one of the most picturesque cities in Europe?
- 3 For how many years has Edinburgh been the capital of Scotland?
- 4 What happens in the city in August and September?
- 5 Where should you go to enjoy a nice panorama of the city?
- 6 What is the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and when does it take place?
- 7 What is 'Auld Reekie'?
- 8 Where are Princes Street Gardens?