

## England and Scotland

Two bordering countries part of a larger country called the United Kingdom, a country that has been pretty influential on the world over the past 300 years or so.

Both on the island of Great Britain, the ninth-biggest island in the world.

England and Scotland are the two most well-known and visited countries in the UK, and maybe by the end of this video you'll have an opinion about which one you think is better.

So what else do they have in common?

Both border the to the east and the Irish Sea to the west. But England also borders the Celtic Sea to the west and English Channel to the south, and Scotland borders the Atlantic Ocean up here.

Both have a bunch of smaller islands, although Scotland has quite a bit more. At least 100 of Scotland's islands are completely uninhabited...by humans at least. Oh, uh...sorry...not ISLANDS. The locals call them isles.

Despite both being so far north on the globe, both have an oceanic, temperate climate and both have long days in the summer and short, very dark days in the winter. Both have milder climates compared to many other areas at similar latitudes due to the temperate waters of the Gulf Stream. But it generally doesn't get that hot in both countries during the summer, and most homes in both don't have air conditioning.<sup>1</sup> That said, in recent years more and more are investing in them as it has got DRAMATICALLY warmer in the summer in both. When we were in Scotland last June, it kind of sucked not having air conditioning. Then again, we're spoiled Americans.

Anyway, both generally get a lot of precipitation. That said, the further west you go in both, generally the more rainfall.

Both are more diverse places than most folks realize.

Both are growing mainly due to people moving to both from other countries.

The biggest religion in both is Christianity. Specifically, Protestant Christianity. More specifically, most Christians in England are members of the Church of England. While many Christians in Scotland are Roman Catholic, most are members of the Church of Scotland.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/18/world/europe/britain-uk-air-conditioning-heat.html>

Farming is big in both, with crop growing generally more in the eastern portions of both and livestock raising generally more common in the western portions.

Both have lots of castles. Both have some of the oldest and most respected universities in the world. Sure, Scotland's got the University of Glasgow, University of St Andrews, University of Aberdeen, and University of Edinburgh, but England's got Imperial College London, University College London, Oxford, and Cambridge, for goodness sake. Oxford and Cambridge both are two of the oldest universities in the world.

How are England and Scotland different? Well before we get into the differences, I'm gonna tell you about YouGov. YouGov is my favorite way to take surveys and make extra cash and rewards. I originally started using it when I was stuck in line somewhere. I think the DMV or something, but it's just a great, quick way to answer questions and get rewarded for it. Often, I take YouGov surveys on the toilet. That reminds me...I still need to clean my phone. Anyway, YouGov is free to join and so easy to get extra cash. It can be an easy side hustle. Tap my link to take surveys and earn cash on YouGov. Thanks to YouGov for sponsoring this video. Ok, where were we? What are the differences between Scotland and England?

England is bigger. Specifically, 1.7 times bigger!

It also has a LOT MORE FREAKING PEOPLE. Specifically, more than TEN TIMES more people. Goodness. (E-56.5 million, S-5.4 million) Eight out of every ten UK residents live in England. Well no wonder it gets most of the attention.

England has a much higher population density. (E-430 people per km<sup>2</sup>, S- 70 people per km<sup>2</sup>)

England borders Wales. Scotland doesn't.

Being further north, Scotland is colder, and thus gets way more snow and darker days in the winter.

Scotland has three distinct geographic areas- the Highlands, the Lowlands, and the Southern Uplands. As the names suggest, the Highlands are high, marked by the biggest mountains on the island, the Lowlands are...uh...LOW...er...and are marked by relatively flat plains, and the Southern Uplands are up...well, kind of. They're a really hilly region along the southern border with England. And yep, Scotland is definitely more mountainous and has the majority of mountains in the UK. It has Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles. England is generally lower and flatter than the rest of the United Kingdom, but hey...it has a bit of mountains, too, eh? Around here and here.

Scotland has more coastline. It also has way more lakes, or...as the locals call them... "lochs." For example, you may have heard of Loch Ness, home of the mythical Loch Ness Monster. 90% of all freshwater in Great Britain is in Scotland.

And most of the longest rivers in Great Britain run through England, including one of the most famous rivers in the world, the River Thames, which runs through London...oh that looks quite familiar, doesn't it?

More of Scotland is considered wilderness<sup>2</sup> and it's definitely much more sparsely populated.

Hey, but England has more national parks. (E-10, S- 2)

Humans have been around in England for WAYYYY longer than Scotland. Oh yeah, let's get into some history? You know what? Let's get help from a local this time.

Ralph: Oh, thanks Mr. Beat. Hi guys, I'm Ralph and I'll be covering the history of these two wonderful countries, so let's get right into it. As mentioned by Mr. Beat, England has been settled for quite a bit longer than Scotland, since 500,000 years ago. Humans have only been around in Scotland for around 14,000 years. In the years BC, the British Isles were settled almost entirely by a multitude of Celtic tribes. Then 54 BC rolls around and Julius Caesar lands on the isles (you might have heard of him), and over the next hundred years or so the Romans fully conquer most of modern day England, which is almost certainly the main reason we see such differences in England and Scotland's cultures today. Famously, Hadrian's Wall was built in the 2nd century which, although on a map doesn't reflect the modern border of the countries, does yet again show the cultural divide. Much of the wall is still intact, by the way!

Around 383 AD, the Romans left Britain since they could no longer defend themselves against Germanic tribes in Western Europe, though their influence has obviously stuck around. Both Scotland and England remained mostly Celtic until the 500s, when there was an enormous influx of immigration from Northern Europe, specifically the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes; altogether they became known as Anglo-Saxons. After the Romans these laid the foundation for not only English culture, but the language itself. Angles? English? English? Around this time, both England and Scotland were divided between several groups: in England you had Northumbria, Mercia, and Wessex to name a few, and in Scotland you had Fothla, Cait, and Dunbar among others. Of course, then came the vikings, arriving in Lindisfarne in North East England in the year 793, who would have massive influence over the next few centuries. They mostly invaded parts of Scotland first, notably the Isles on its West Coast, before in the mid 9th century moving onto establishing Norse Kingdoms all across the north and east of England. By the turn of the millennium, these Viking settlements were largely pushed out of England, though it would still take until around the year 1260 to push them out of Scotland. Scotland was likely the first of the two countries to establish a monarchy, its first being Kenneth I who had been king of the Picts. Many people don't realize the Kingdom of Scotland existed, off and on but mostly on, from 843 all the way to 1707.

Some time in the early years of the Kingdom of Scotland, England got a monarch for the first time, through the lineage of the famed and legendary King Arthur of the Anglo Saxons, known

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-27973698>

for valiantly defending Britain against the much stronger armies of the vikings. Famously, England was invaded and subsequently conquered in 1066 by a certain William the Conqueror, whose lineage would go on to become the English monarchy we know and love today. More notably, the Norman invasion changed England from a largely Germanic and Celtic nation to one with large French and Latin influence, which shows England to be the cultural and linguistic melting pot of sorts of pre-Renaissance Europe. By contrast, Scotland remained mostly Celtic. Well, until England started invading it. England invaded Scotland many times from the 900s all the way up to the 1600s. Often, England would take it over and then Scotland would re-establish its independence, and then the whole thing would repeat itself, as history sometimes does. Notably England invaded Scotland in 1296, an invasion in which Edward I of England led an army across the border, kickstarting the confusingly named First War of Scottish Independence. This included the famed Battle of Stirling Bridge, the Scots led by the guy from Braveheart. Ok, William Wallace. There were dozens of conflicts between the two nations over the next hundred years or so, including invasions of Scotland in the 1540s known as the War of the Rough Wooing, at the command of Henry the 8th, where Scotland's capital city of Edinburgh was burned down. This, of course, is what fueled the intense rivalry of two independent countries fighting over an island for centuries.

In 1603, James VI of Scotland succeeded the English Queen Elizabeth I as King of England, which made the two countries share a monarch. Then came some more more chaotic times in England, which...to oversimplify, tensions got so bad between the generally Protestant supporters of the English Parliament, and the generally Catholic supporters of the Monarchy, under Charles I, that a series of civil wars occurred from 1642 to 1651. This resulted in the monarchy of both England and Scotland being disbanded, as England became ruled by Oliver Cromwell as its Lord Protector, until his death in 1658 where Charles I's son came back to rule as King. By the late 1600s, Scotland decided to join in with other Western European countries, like England, by starting a colony in the new world.

Mr. Beat: Oh come on, you're just gonna gloss over all the English colonies like that? They were kind of a big deal.

England had had tremendous success with its colonies in North America, in particular.

Mr. Beat: Well that's an understatement. It became filthy rich!

The Scots set one up in Panama, but this didn't work out for a multitude of reasons, and it left 80% of Scottish participants dead. This scheme was backed by about a fifth of the entire Scottish economy, and its failure left the entire Scottish lowlands in financial ruin.

This was a big reason why Scotland decided to finally join England in the Act of Union 1707. Since then, both countries have been part of the United Kingdom, which while having its government in London, has elected officials proportional to the populations of areas within the country, so Scotland has always had at least some representation, which was furthered in 1999 when it was given its own devolved government, which Mr. Beat will go into later.

And boy did Scotland time that right. Over the next more than 200 years, the United Kingdom was the top world superpower, building the biggest empire the world has ever seen. As the two countries have existed side by side, England has seemed to grow both in population and economy much faster, especially with the growth of London in the 1800s. Around 20% of Scots emigrated to other parts of the British Empire from the mid-1800s to mid-1900s, notably Canada and Australia, though this population has been balanced out by immigrants arriving mostly from Ireland and mainland Europe. I'm rambling on, but in short, historically both countries have been fierce rivals for a multitude of reasons separating them from the start, from the Romans to the Vikings, and both countries have been some of the most influential on the world stage in the past couple of centuries together as part of the United Kingdom..

Today, both countries remain among the richest in the world.

Major industries in England include technology, finance, professional services, and manufacturing. Major industries in Scotland also include professional services and manufacturing, as well as construction. Tourism is also quite big in both.

England is growing at a faster rate. One big reason why is because more immigrants have moved to England in recent years. Due to having a growing foreign-born population, England has become a much more diverse country in recent years than Scotland.

The cost of living is higher, on average, in England.<sup>3</sup> Related to this, folks in England, generally speaking, earn more money than folks in Scotland.<sup>4</sup> That said, the poverty rate is lower in Scotland.<sup>5</sup> Related to this, the crime rate is also lower in Scotland.<sup>6</sup>

Higher-income residents of Scotland do pay a higher percentage income tax than higher income residents of England.

England has London, so uh...that's gonna give it a huge advantage...or also disadvantage...depending on how you look at it I guess if you don't like people. Ah yes, London. You've heard of it? Among the richest and most visited cities in the world. It's that place Jay Foreman wanders about. With a metro population of nearly 15 million, it's the biggest city in the United Kingdom, and its capital of course. In addition to being where the UK's government meets, it's got most of the iconic attractions we associate with the entire island: ya know...Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, The Tower Bridge...stuff like that. Anyway, this video is

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<sup>3</sup> <https://livingcost.org/cost>

<sup>4</sup>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings/2021>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-51384174>

<sup>6</sup>

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1030625/crime-rate-uk/#:~:text=The%20crime%20rate%20in%20the,it%20increased%20slightly%20to%2052.8.>

not about London, but England and Scotland, so enough of that. I'm sure if you live in England you're just about peeved that London always gets all the attention, anyway.

Crazy enough, metro London's population is nearly three times that of Scotland. Scotland's largest city is NOT its capital. Glasgow, which has more than eight times fewer people than London. Despite being so much smaller, it still has around a third of Scotland's population.

Three out of every five Scots live in THIS little area of the country, in either the Glasgow or Edinburgh metro area. Oh yeah, Edinburgh is Scotland's capital, and while London gets more tourists, Edinburgh is the second-most visited city in the UK and has much more of its older buildings in its city center preserved. If you ever get the chance to visit Old Town, and the Royal Mile, in particular, you should. I highly recommend 10/10.

Scotland as a whole, in fact, has more old buildings still intact. The Knap of Howar, on the island of Papa Westray in Orkney, Scotland, is the oldest preserved stone house not only in the UK but all of northern Europe. It dates as far back as 3700 BC, which is more than a thousand years before the earliest Egyptian pyramids were built.

Speaking of old stuff, England has Stonehenge, these mysteriously placed 13 feet by seven feet, 25-ton stones. Stonehenge is one of the most famous prehistoric spots in the world. But hardly anyone knows about Scotland's Callanish Stones.

Scotland has Skara Brae, the most preserved Neolithic village in all of Europe.

England has a higher life expectancy. (E- 79.4, S-76.8)<sup>7</sup>

Scotland is less religious.

In Scotland, you are considered to be legally an "adult" if you are at least 16 years old. You're legally an "adult" at 18 in England, as well as the rest of the UK for that matter and most of the rest of the world.

Scotland has a "devolved" government, which means its government has devolved into madness. Just kidding. It just means Scots have a bit more self-governance than England. Being a legal adult at 16 is an example of that.

Scots are generally more left-leaning, politically. When citizens of the UK voted on whether or not to leave the European Union back in 2016...aka "Brexit," Scots overwhelmingly voted to STAY in the European Union, while most of England excluding London voted to LEAVE the European Union.

Historically, there was much more of a rivalry between England and Scotland, but these days, that rivalry seems to revolve mostly around sports. There's the football, aka soccer, rivalry

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<sup>7</sup> <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2023/10/11/life-expectancy-in-scotland/>

between the national football teams. Dating back to 1872, it's football's oldest rivalry. England leads the all-time series, but 26 of the games between the two ended in ties. There's also a big rugby rivalry between the two countries. Cricket is a popular sport in both countries, but way bigger in England. Heck, the sport was even invented there. And rounders, which is apparently different from cricket? Oh yeah, rugby and the modern form of football were also both invented in England. Oh yeah? Well the modern form of golf was invented in Scotland. Eh.

England is where the language that I'm speaking right now originated. Yep, the English starting speaking the most spoken language in the world, English, in England. What a surprise, right. Approximately 1.5 billion speak English today, do you understand what I'm saying? Well, if you speak English you do.

Now that said, I'm specifically talking about Modern English. No, not the band. The language! Modern English evolved from Early Middle English, as did Scots, a language unique to Scotland, of course. You hear it more in [these parts](#) of the country. Many in mostly [these parts](#) of Scotland speak Scottish Gaelic. Mostly though, you'll just hear Scottish English wherever you go in the country. Down here in South West England....specifically the county of Cornwall, several also speak a language called Cornish.

While there is definitely a distinct and almost stereotypical Scottish accent, there are like, DOZENS of different accents in England.

Elton John was made in England. ([clip](#)) See? I told you he was. But not just Elton John. Some of the most influential and popular bands and musicians in world history came from England. The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks, The Who, Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath, Pink Floyd, Queen, The Clash, The Sex Pistols, Joy Division, The Smiths, Iron Maiden, Deep Purple, Depeche Mode, Radiohead, Blur, Bee Gees, Genesis, The Cure, Oasis, Coldplay, David Bowie, Eric Clapton, Adele, and Ed Sheeran, just to name a very few. Holy freaking crap. They all came from England? That's a bit overwhelming. What the heck is going on with England? Even though a TON of great music has come out of Scotland, today it's mostly known more for one-hit wonders, at least internationally.

England gave us William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, J.K. Rowling, and George Orwell. Scotland gave us Robert Burns. In fact, Burns is Scotland's national poet, and on January 25th Scots honor him with the traditional Burns supper. Burns Night, baby! The actor Ewan McGregor and the novelist Robert Louis Stevenson are also from Scotland. Well, Stevenson passed away back in 1894, in case you haven't heard.

England has more UNESCO World Heritage Sites. (E-20, S-6)

Scotland has 32 subdivisions known as council areas. England has nine regions, further divided into 48 ceremonial counties...heck, even further divided into 84 metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties...heck, even further divided into 296 districts...heck, even further divided into 10,449 civil parishes. Goodness. What am I, Jay Foreman?

Scotland has Haggis, and while fish and chips is popular all across the UK, most say it's superior down in England. Scotland gave us Scotch whisky, while tea still rules in England.

Overall, Scotland seems to have a more distinct identity than England. Much of that is based on being a Celtic nation. There's... ya know, bagpipes. There's definitely more bagpipes in Scotland. And kilts.... that's where kilts originated.

To wrap up, I know I just listed off a bunch of differences, but these days England and Scotland are not as different as you might think. Each passing year, the Scots and the English are more like brothers than enemies. But with all brothers, there is always sibling rivalry.

A special shout out to Ralph from Osbers Gaming, who is from Scotland, for collaborating with me for this video. He did the history portion, in case you didn't notice. Be sure to subscribe to Osbers Gaming! It was also great to meet him in person when we were in Edinburgh last spring. Oh yeah, my family and I actually went on vacation to both England and Scotland! A lot of the footage you saw was from stuff I shot while we were there. So which is better? England or Scotland? Let me know down below. Oh, and I also have an Edinburgh and Glasgow Compared video planned in the near future, so look for that. Ok. Goodbye. Thanks for watching!

Sources/further reading:

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