

Module 1: Page 31: Famous Scottish Personalities

ROBERT BURNS (1759-1796)

Robert Burns became famous for his songs and poems and he is now considered the national Scottish poet. He wrote 368 songs. His most famous folk song is "Auld Lang Syne. Below there is a melancholy song about the remembrance of the poet's homecountry.

Read the poem carefully and underline all the repetitions. Why do you think there are so many?

My hearth's in the Highlands

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here;
My heart's in the Highlands a-chasing 1 the deer;
Chasing the wild deer, and following the roe2
My heart's in the Highlands, wherever I go.
Farewell to the Highlands, farewell to the North,
The birth-place of valour, the country of worth;
Wherever I wander, wherever I rove3
The hills of the Highlands for ever I love.

WALTER SCOTT

Walter Scott is one of the best known Scottish writers. He is the author of "Ivanhoe", "Rob Roy" and many other novels: He created the historical novel developed by Alessandro Manzoni with his "PROMESSI SPOSI".

Activities:

1. Answer the following questions:

1. Which famous poet was born in Scotland?
2. What did he write?
3. What famous writer created the historical novel?

2. What about you?

1. Are you nostalgic?
2. Imagine you have to go away from your hometown for a lot of time. Would you miss it?
3. Are you able to write a poem based on Burns "My heart's in the Highlands" dedicated to your town?

ALEXANDER FLEMING (1881-1955)

Alexander Fleming was the son of a Scottish farmer of Ayrshire. He loved to observe the phenomena of nature, the cycles of vegetation and the behavior of animals overall. He took his degree in Medicine at the beginning of the Twentieth century and during the First World war he became fond of studying the remedies against the infections, which, very often, were the cause of death of lots blessed soldiers. Since then he spent his life to study the bacterium's cultures 4till to discover in 1928 the wonderful virtues of "Penicillium Notatum",

a microscopic mushroom which destroyed all the germs with which it came in contact. The Penicillin was born! He received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1945 with Howard Florey and Ernst Chain. In 1999, Time Magazine named Fleming one of 100 Most Important People of the 20th Century for his discovery of penicillin.

JAMES WATT (1736-1819)

James Watt was born at Greenock and when he was a child he enjoys himself to disassemble and assemble, with a great patience, the sailing instruments which were in his father's workshop. His ability grew and when he was only 20 he began to work for the University of Glasgow as a producer of mathematical instruments. And here, there was the miracle which contributed so much to the development of the English and modern world Industrial Revolution. He built the first rudimentary model of steam engine ^s of history.

Still today we call "watt" the power unity of MKS system, and "horsepowers" those ones related to the engines traction force. Without doubt the Scottish genius contributed to the progress of mankind.

Activities:

1. Answer the following questions:

1. Who was Alexander Fleming?
2. What did he discover?
3. What did James Watt love to do when he was a child?
4. What did he build?
5. Did the Scottish genius contributed to the progress of mankind?

2. Make a research about another important Scotsman: Arthur Conan Doyle. Who was he? What did he do?

3. Find more information about the discoveries of Alexander Fleming and James Watt.

^s Steam engine= macchina a vapore