

THE WORLD AROUND US / PDMU · P4–P7

Cultúr Albanach Uladh — Ulster-Scots Culture

P4–P7 Classroom Resource

Who are the Ulster-Scots?

1

Ulster-Scots

People whose ancestors came from Scotland (mainly Galloway, Ayrshire, and Dumfriesshire) to Ulster, mainly in the 17th century, during and after the Plantation of Ulster. Also known as 'Scots-Irish' in North America.

2

Migration to America

In the 18th century, many Ulster-Scots emigrated to America, particularly to the Appalachian mountains and frontier regions. They became a major force in American culture — country music, storytelling, a fierce individualism.

3

American presidents

Approximately 17 US Presidents had Ulster-Scots ancestry, including Andrew Jackson (whose parents were from Co. Antrim), James Buchanan, Woodrow Wilson, and Bill Clinton.

4

Ulster-Scots language

A dialect of Scots spoken in northeast Ulster and Co. Down. Sometimes called 'Ullans'. Key words: brae (hillside), burn (stream), wean (child — from 'wee one'), fernenst (opposite to), dander (a walk).

5

Cultural traditions

Pipe bands, country dance, the 'Twelfth' celebrations (marching bands, Orange Order parades), and the fiddle tradition are all part of Ulster-Scots cultural expression.



6

Recognition

The Ulster-Scots Agency (Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch) promotes Ulster-Scots culture, language, and history. The Identity and Language (NI) Act 2022 gives Ulster-Scots recognition alongside Irish.

