

SOCIAL STUDIES · P4–P7

Glaschu — Glasgow

History & Geography — P4–P7

Glasgow — key facts

1

Scotland's largest city

Population approximately 635,000 (metropolitan area 1.8 million). Second city of the British Empire at its height. On the River Clyde, west-central Scotland.

2

Industrial history

19th century: Glasgow was the 'workshop of the world' — textiles, engineering, chemicals. The Clyde became the world's premier shipbuilding river. Over 25,000 ships built on the Clyde. 1/5 of all the world's ships in 1913.

3

Empire connections

Glasgow's wealth was built partly on the tobacco and sugar trades — both reliant on enslaved labour in the Americas. The city's Merchant City district reflects this history. The George Square statues remain contested.

4

Deindustrialisation

Shipbuilding collapsed in the 1960s-80s as cheaper overseas yards won contracts. Mass unemployment devastated communities — particularly the east end.

5

Cultural revival

Glasgow's reinvention as a cultural city: European City of Culture (1990). Burrell Collection; Glasgow School of Art; Citizens Theatre; Celtic Connections festival. The Barras market.

6

Glasgow today

Vibrant, diverse, undergoing ongoing regeneration. Commonwealth Games 2014. COP26 2021. Art schools producing internationally recognised artists. Strong music scene.

