

## Timeline of Scotland

### **The birth of Scotland**

**10,000 BC**

#### **The Palaeolithic Era**

The period of earliest known occupation of Scotland by man is from the Palaeolithic era – also known as the Stone Age. Hunter-gatherers hunted for fish and wild animals and gathered fruit, nuts, plants, roots and shells.

**3,000 BC**

#### **Neolithic Age**

The earliest prehistoric tools found still surviving in Scotland date from 3000 BC – during the Neolithic age Scotland was home to nomadic hunter-gatherers as well as the first farmers who built permanent dwellings.

**120 AD**

#### **The Roman Empire**

Scotland's recorded history began with the arrival of the Roman Empire. Despite building two impressive fortifications – Hadrian's Wall to defend the northern border, and Antonine Wall to advance it forward – the Romans never truly conquered Caledonia. Unable to defeat the Caledonians and Picts, the Romans eventually withdrew and over time retreated away from Britain.

**800 AD**

#### **Arrival of the Vikings**

Vikings were accomplished seamen at this point in history, and around 800AD they began migrating from Norway and Denmark, crossing the treacherous North Sea to trade and settle in Scotland. While Vikings began to settle in the west, the Picts were forging a new kingdom; the Kingdom of Alba.

**1040 AD**

#### **Macbeth rules Scotland**

Immortalized forever in Shakespeare's fictitious retelling, Macbeth is perhaps one of the best-known early Scottish kings. Macbeth ruled as King of Alba from 1040 to his death in 1057.

**1100 AD**

#### **Becoming a feudal society**

In the 12th century the Kingdom of Alba continued to grow and became a feudal society. The Treaty of Falaise, signed by William I, ushered in a period of relative peace in Scotland. During the reigns of Alexander II and then Alexander III, more land was turned over to agriculture, trade with the continent bolstered the economy and monasteries and abbeys grew and flourished around the country.

## **Fighting for independence**

**1297**

### **Battle of Stirling Bridge**

A succession crisis brought unrest to Scotland after the death of Alexander III. England's monarch, Edward I, believed he should be recognized as overlord of Scotland and his troops marched north in a series of bloody sieges. In 1297, Edward's army planned to cross the River Forth at Stirling Bridge; the Scots seized the opportunity to attack at the crossing of the River Forth, the Stirling Bridge, forcing the English army to retreat. It was here one of Scotland's most famous figures, William Wallace, earned his place in the history books forever.

**1306**

### **Robert the Bruce crowned king of Scotland**

Unrest continued into the 14th century when Robert the Bruce took the throne and was crowned king. Fighting continued until 1314 at the Battle of Bannockburn, where Robert the Bruce and his army defeated Edward II, a major turning point in his rule.

**1320**

### **The Declaration of Arbroath**

In 1320, the Declaration of Arbroath proclaiming Scotland's status as an independent sovereign state is sent to Pope John XXII. Though its effect was largely symbolic, the powerful declaration remains an important document in Scottish history – many historians believe it inspired America's founding fathers to write the United States Declaration of Independence.

## **The Union of the Crowns**

**1450**

### **Renaissance in Scotland**

The cultural, intellectual and artistic movement that took hold around Europe brought significant changes to Scotland; education, intellectual life, literature, art, architecture, music and politics all advanced in the late 15th century.

**1542**

### **Mary Queen of Scots**

In 1542 Mary is crowned Queen of Scots at just nine months old. Her reign was marked by civil unrest during the Rough Wooing and conflict between the Catholics and Protestants during the Reformation. Worried Mary would try to launch a Catholic plot against her, Elizabeth I imprisoned Mary in England until her execution in 1597.

**1603**

### **The Union of the Crowns**

James VI succeeded the throne at just 13 months old after Mary was forced to abdicate. When Elizabeth I died with no children, James VI succeeded to the English throne and became James VI & I – a historic move that's now known as the Union of the Crowns.

**1707**

### **The Act of Union**

In 1707 The Act of Union brought Scotland even closer to Britain by creating a single Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain at the Palace of Westminster.

**1746**

### **Battle of Culloden**

The Battle of Culloden in 1746 was the final Jacobite rising and the last battle fought on British soil. The Jacobites were no match for the Hanoverian army – the battle lasted just an hour and the army was brutally crushed.

**1746**

### **Highland Clearances**

Shortly after the defeat of the Jacobites at Culloden, a period known as the Highland Clearances began. A number of laws were introduced in an attempt to assimilate the Highlanders; speaking Gaelic and wearing traditional tartan attire was banned, and clan chiefs had their rights to jurisdiction removed.

**1750 onwards**

### **The Age of Enlightenment**

The ideas from philosophers living in Scotland during The Age of Enlightenment shaped the modern world. The intellectual movement sought to understand the natural world and the human mind and ranged across philosophy, chemistry, geology, engineering, technology, poetry, medicine, economics and history. Figures like Thomas Hobbes, David Hume, Adam Smith, Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott are still celebrated for their achievements.

**1800**

### **Urban and Industrial Scotland**

Industrial advances and wealth accumulated from the trade of tobacco, sugar and cotton bring about the dawn of urban Scotland at the turn of the 19th century. The country shifted from rural to urban, and huge towns, massive factories and heavy industry took hold. Mining, shipbuilding and textiles were very important to Scotland's development during this time.

### **The 20th Century and Beyond**

**1914**

#### **First World War**

Scottish soldiers played a significant role in the First World War and Glasgow's Clydeside was an important centre during the war as well – it was the centre of shipbuilding and munitions production in the British Empire.