

# Italians in Scotland

L.Is

- 1.Explain why Italians came to Scotland.
- 2.Describe the impact Italians have had on Scotland.



# Key questions

**When did Italians come to Scotland in large numbers?**

**Why did Italians come to Scotland?**

**What impact did Italians have on Scottish life and culture?**

When did Italians begin arriving in  
Scotland in larger numbers?

The 1890s, so around  
120 years ago



# Why did Italians come to Scotland in large numbers?



- Famine in the 1880s
- Poverty
- Wanted jobs in Scotland
- Stopping off on way to America but couldn't afford fare for next step of voyage, so stayed here.





# Italians in Edinburgh



# What impact did they have on Scottish life and culture?

1s: Food

2s: Café culture

3s: Hairdressing & barbers

## Expert groups challenge

Each group will read information on one way  
Italians made an impact on Scotland.

Each group then has to create:

A quick A3 poster explaining their topic. You  
should use pictures and no more than 20  
words.

Each member of the group **MUST** be able to  
explain their poster clearly to other people.

**You are now going to teach the other people in your pair about your topic. They are going to take notes using keywords.**

**1s: Food**

**2s: Café culture**

**3s: Hairdressing & barbers**



## **1s: Food**

Italians brought their love of food to Scotland. They opened up fish and chip shops and ice cream parlours. In fact, 'pokey hats' (ice cream cones) were introduced by Italians and the ice cream sellers were known as 'hokey pokey' men. 'Chippies' and ice cream vans and shops are now part of Scottish life and it is thanks to the Italians who set them up in Scotland. What is more, Italians set up pizzerias which, of course, sold pizzas.

## **2s: Café culture**

Italians set up lots of cafes and restaurants when they arrived in Scotland in the 1890s. Young Scots soon began to spend a lot of time there, especially late in the evenings when other businesses had shut. Teenagers would go on dates at ice cream parlours. Soon, going to the Italian café for a coffee or ice cream had become part of Scottish culture and life. Some religious Scots, however, didn't like these cafes as they opened up on Sundays, the traditional day of rest.

## **3s: Hairdressing & barbers**

In 1928, Italians set up the College of Italian Hairdressers in Glasgow. This college helped to train new hairdressers and barbers. A barber is someone who shapes and cuts men's hair and beards. Even today, there are lots of Italian hairdressers and barbers in Scottish towns and cities.

**So, why did Italians choose to settle  
here?**

**And what impact did Italians have on  
Scotland?**

# Italian immigrants' impact Challenge

Write a paragraph with at least 5 sentences describing the impact Italian immigrants have had on Scotland.

OR

Produce an A5 poster/storyboard showing what impact Italian immigrants have had on Scotland.