

Scotland and Europe - Nation Building, Polish Immigration

Lesson 8

Silent Study Starter:



- Use an atlas – where is Poland? What is its capital?



- Use an atlas – which Polish city would immigrants have left by boat from?



- Use an atlas. How far away is Poland? You'll need a ruler to work out the distance using the scale.

Learning Intention: What is migration and how has it affected Scotland?

Success Criteria: Be able to describe where migrants to Scotland have come from and how they have built our nation





It was noticed that among the Polish soldiers arriving on Scottish shores from 1940, many were doctors, professors and students of medicine. Edinburgh University decided to step in to help Polish soldiers continue their studies, and so the Polish School of Medicine at the University was born.

Local places in Fife where Polish troops were stationed:

1. 4th Polish Rifle Cadre stationed at Largo House, Upper Largo, Fife.
2. Thousands of Polish soldiers stationed at Auchtertool Distribution Camp, Fife.
3. General Sikorski had a house in Auchtertool, Fife
4. 1st Polish Parachute Brigade formed at Kinraig Point and stationed at Largo House. Parachute training tower located at Lundin Links, Fife.
5. The parachute silk was made in Castleblair works, Pilmuir Street, Dunfermline.

Immigration to Scotland

– Private

• The story of Wojtek the

- And the Scottish connection? After the war, part of Wojtek's unit was sent to Scotland.
- Wojtek was re-homed to Edinburgh Zoo where he lived until his death in 1963, regularly visited by Polish veterans.
- A statue commemorating the warrior bear is in Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens and Krakow's Jordan Park as a way to remember the sacrifice of Polish fighters and celebrate the connection between our two cultures.

• Watch soldiers

Can you

1. What

in Persia?

2. What does the bear's name mean?

3. What things did the bear learn to do?

4. Why could the soldiers not go home?

5. What happened to Wojtek when he got to Scotland?

cigarettes and shells in combat performed during the Battle of Monte Cassino



Success Review Task

Task: Work as a pair to answer these questions – make a display that puts the two reports side by side.

- You are the head of your unit in the Polish army. Write a report to your commanding officer on why you, your men (and bear) found yourselves living in Scotland. (4)
- You are one of the soldiers living in Scotland. Write a letter to your family who are still in Poland describing how you feel. What are the good and bad things about your new situation? (4)

Additional Silent Study Starter

- **Lesson 6**
- **Silent Study Starter:**
 - **Use your notes to look up the answers to these questions:**
 - Who was Wojtek?
 - What did he learn to do?
 - Which country did he end up in?
 - Who brought him there?
 - Why couldn't the people who brought him go home?
- **Learning Intention:** What is migration and how has it affected Scotland?
- **Success Criteria:** Be able to describe where migrants to Scotland have come from and how they have built our nation