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| **Topic:**  **Decolonising the British Empire Exhibition of 1938: Scottish Identity** | | | |
| **Relevant CFE outcomes and experiences:**  **SOC 2-01a:** I can use primary and secondary sources selectively to research events in the past.  **SOC 2-04a:** I can compare and contrast a society in the past with my own and contribute to a discussion of the similarities and differences.  **LIT 2-02a:** When I engage with others, I can respond in ways appropriate to my role, show that I value others’ contributions and use these to build on thinking. | | | |
| **Learning Intentions**  *By the end of the lesson, pupils will be able to:*   * Understand how Scotland was presented at the 1938 Empire Exhibition * Reflect on how national identity can be represented in different ways * Express their own views on what it means to be Scottish today | | **Success criteria**  *Pupils will be successful if they are able to:*   * Identify features of the reconstructed Highland village at the exhibition * Explain how this version of Scottish identity compares to their own ideas * Share and reflect on their personal or family identity using words or images | |
| **Teacher Notes**  Background Information  The Empire Exhibition (1938) was held in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, and celebrated the British Empire and Scottish industry and culture.  “An Clachan” was a recreated Highland village with fake ruins, thatched cottages, and actors in traditional dress. It offered a nostalgic, romanticised view of rural Scotland.  Some visitors saw it as beautiful and comforting; others (especially now) see it as a constructed and selective version of Scottish life.  The lesson encourages pupils to think critically about representation — what’s shown, what’s left out, and how we present our identity.  Resources  Pathé newsreel: Empire Exhibition 1938  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIwvvYYNDUc> | | | |
| **Timing**  5 mins  5 mins  10 mins  15 mins  5 mins  5 mins | **Lesson Plan**  Introduction  Show the first photo from the prompt booklet of the fake Highland castle.  Ask:   * “What do you think this is?” and * “Why might someone build this in a park?”   Context Input  Brief teacher explanation:   * The Empire Exhibition took place in Glasgow in 1938. * 12 million people visited. * It included a “Highland village” reconstruction called “An Clachan”, with fake buildings and people in traditional dress.   Image Discussion  In pairs or small groups, pupils look at the selection of images from “An Clachan” and discuss the following:   * What do these pictures tell us about Scottish identity in 1938? * Do they feel realistic or staged? * Whose version of Scotland is being shown?   Use the quote: “The clachan… was very picturesque.” What does *picturesque* mean?  Optional: show 1–2 mins of the Pathé newsreel.  Creative Response  Ask pupils to think about what *their* version of Scotland would include today. They can:   1. Draw their own version of a “clachan” or community scene that represents modern Scottish life 2. Or write a short paragraph or poem that reflects their personal or family identity (e.g. “I am Scottish because…”)   Discussion  Invite a few pupils to share what they created.  Discuss:   * What is different between the 1938 version and ours? * Are there still elements of traditional Scotland in our lives today? * Do we all share the same identity?   Plenary  Revisit learning intentions. Highlight how identity is shaped by history, memory, and imagination.  Reinforce that there are many ways to be Scottish. | | **Resources**  Projected or printed photos  Paper, pencils, optional writing scaffold  Pathé newsreel (see Teacher’s notes) |