

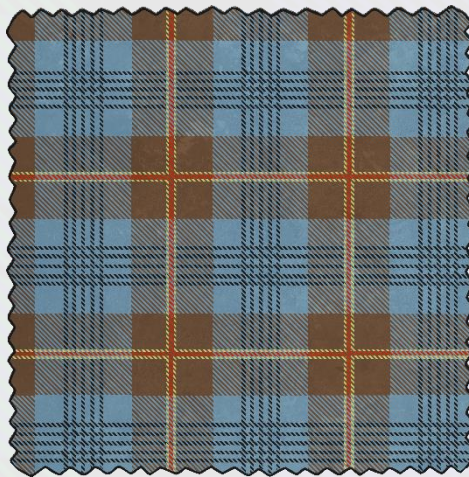
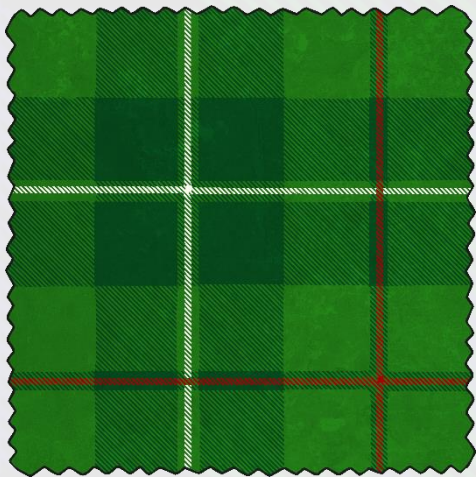
Tartan



What Is Tartan?

Tartan is a pattern, made by horizontal and vertical coloured lines crossing over each other.

The stripes that cross over each other are called setts. These setts are repeated over and over to create the pattern.



Where Would We See Tartan?

You may see tartan patterns in a variety of places, such as on clothing and household items.

Traditionally, tartan patterns are used on woolen clothing. You may have seen men wearing tartan kilts at special occasions.

Before modern dyeing methods were available, the wool was dyed with natural materials such as plants and berries to create a variety of colours.



Highland Dress

Tartan material is used in traditional Highland dress.

Men would traditionally wear a kilt, as well as a long plaid. This was pleated along the waist, then draped around the body.

Today, you may see people wearing Highland dress at formal occasions such as weddings or Highland games.



What Do the Patterns Mean?

The patterns and colours used in a tartan can be used to represent a family or clan.

Clans would wear their own tartan at events or occasions.

Do you know if your family have their own tartan?



The History of Tartan

After the Battle of Culloden, tartan was banned in Scotland.

It was not until 1782 that the ban on tartan was lifted. More and more people began wearing tartan as a symbol of being from Scotland.

Tartan is now a fashion item.



Popular Tartans

Black Watch tartan is a favourite in wedding parties. The green and blue colours are popular and easily identified.



Royal Stewart tartan is another traditional print with red, blue and green colours.



Make Your Own Tartan

Use this fun resource to create your own tartan:

Design Your Own Tartan Colouring Sheets

