

Edinburgh - the birthplace of Harry Potter

1 Edinburgh may not be the first thing that crosses your mind when talking about Harry Potter. However, this is where it all started. Edinburgh is known as the birthplace of Harry Potter as J. K. Rowling wrote some of the very first chapters of the books here.

2 Many characters, places and events might have been inspired by the magic of this historic city. Edinburgh has become a popular pilgrimage for Potterheads who want to experience some of the magic. J.K. Rowling started to write the story of Harry Potter while sitting in many of Edinburgh's warm and cozy cafes.

3 One of the most impressive places linked to Harry Potter is the graveyard „Greyfriars Kirkyard“. Fans believe that J.K. Rowling used some of the names on the tombs for inspiration for the leading characters - you will see names like Robert Potter, William McGonagall (a famously bad poet), Elizabeth Moodie and Margaret Louisa Scrymgeour Wedderburn. By far the most famous resident of this graveyard is Thomas Riddle which as all Harry Potter fans know, is the name of „He who must not be named“, aka Lord Voldemort.

4 Scotland's capital might also be the birthplace of Hogwarts. Even though J.K. Rowling has never officially determined the location many people believe that the magical school is based on George Heriot's School in Edinburgh's city centre. This school was built in 1628 with four towers and a breath-taking gothic architecture - ideal conditions for the creation of Hogwarts.

5 In case you want to see the city's most notable Harry Potter sights by a knowledgeable and entertaining guide, The Potter Trail is an award-winning ninety-minute experience like no other. Led by a themed tour guide, the enchanting trail begins at the Greyfriar's Bobby Statue and finishes on Victoria Terrace, visiting all of the top Potter sights along the way. Although this tour is free, donations are recommended. You may even learn a spell or two along the way!





Text-based tasks

① Choose the correct ending of the sentence and write the completed sentence down.

1. The city of Edinburgh is said to be the city

- a) who has many Harry Potter sights.
- b) which is the birthplace of the Harry Potter books.
- c) that is lovely to travel.

Answer:

2. JK Rowling is a famous author

- a) whose job it was to travel through Edinburgh.
- b) which was inspired by the capital of Scotland.
- c) who wrote the popular series of Harry Potter books.

Answer:

3. The graveyard „Greyfriars Kirkyard“ is an impressive place

- a) which could have been the inspiration for some characters.
- b) which can be experienced by taking part in tours.
- c) which is where Thomas Riddle was born.

Answer:



AB: Reading

English 7

② Match the headings to the text passage.

Passage	Heading
☐	The Potter Trail
☐	Birthplace?
☐	Inspiration
☐	The beginning
☐	Hogwarts in the city center?

③ Ask three questions about Edinburgh.

④ Answer the questions in a complete sentence.

1) Which place might have inspired JK Rowling?

2) Where can you learn best about the Harry Potter sights?

