**Scotland**

As a result of its geography, Scotland has two different societies. In the centre of Scotland Mountains stretch to the far north and across to the west, beyond which lie many islands. To the east and to the south the lowland hills are gentler, and much of the countryside is like England, rich, welcoming and easy to farm.

Scotland was populated by four separate groups of people. The main group, the **Picts,** *lived* mostly in the north and northeast. They spoke Celtic as well as another, probably older, language completely unconnected with any known language today, andthey seem to have been the earliest inhabitants of the land. The Picts were different from the Celts because they inherited their rights, their names and property from their mothers, not from their fathers.

The **Scots** were Celtic settlers who had started to *move* into the western Highlands from Ireland in the fourth century. In 843 the Pictish and Scottish kingdoms were united under a Scottish king, who could also probably claim the Pictish throne thro ugh his mother, in this way obeying both Scottish and Pictish rules of kingship.

The third group was the **Britons**, who inhabited the Lowland s, and had been part of the Romano British world. They had probably given up their old tribal way of life by the sixth century. Finally, there were **Angles** from Northumbria who had pushed northwards into the Scottish Lowlands unity between Piers, Scots and Britons was achieved for several reasons. They all shared a common Celtic culture, language and background.

Their economy mainly depended on keeping animals. These animals were owned by the tribe as a whole, and for this reason land was also held by tribes, not by individual people. The common economic system increased their feeling of belonging to the same kind of society and the feeling of difference from the agricultural Lowlands. The sense of common culture may have been increased by marriage alliances between tribes. This idea of common landholding remained strong until the tribes of Scotland, called “clans”, collapsed in the eighteenth century.