

Created by
the Romanian Comenius Team from
Școala Gimnazială Porumbéști
based on materials received from
Johnstonebridge Primary School
UNITED KINGDOM— SCOTLAND
Johnstonebridge

LINKS

<http://www.british-salt.co.uk/>

<http://www.maldonsalt.co.uk/Education%20and%20Fun%20Where%20Salt%20Comes%20From.html>

<http://saltassociation.co.uk/salt-the-facts/salt-history/>

<http://www.scottishheritagehub.com/content/salt-working>

<http://www.threetowners.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=10418>

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Comenius Project

„SALT OF THE EARTH„

SALT MINES IN SCOTLAND - UK



SALT WORKING – SCOTLAND / UK



Little is known about pre-Medieval salt-making processes in Scotland.

Medieval saltmaking may have largely used the sleetching process, but other methods are also possible.

By the Tudor and Stuart periods salt was still brought to London from coastal salt pans of France and Southern England but by the 16th century a considerable quantity of salt came from Scotland where cheap coastal coal was evaporating seawater in iron pans.

In the 1590s Culross produced more salt than anywhere else in Scotland.

The Late Medieval development of coal-fuelled 'panhouse' saltmaking may have been centred in Scotland and was of major importance to the Scottish economy in the 16th and 17th centuries.



Salt Pan



Salt Working

The Scottish sea salt industry flourished from the 17th to the early 19th century. From 1707 to 1825 it was protected from English competition by a lower rate of taxation. When duties on salt were abolished in 1825 the Scottish industry declined rapidly.

Around 1874 John Smith, manager of Eglinton Iron Works and better known for his archaeological research, being asked to examine the condition of the Salt Pans reported that they were in poor condition and uneconomic to repair and maintain. This adverse assessment sealed the fate of the Salt Pans and shortly thereafter they were abandoned. Thus ended an era not only for Saltcoats and Scotland but probably also for Great Britain. An activity, an industry and a way of life, in existence for seven centuries, had vanished.

In Scotland salt works were scattered over the East and West coasts and it has been suggested that the original salt workings at Saltcoats were begun by the monks of Kilwinning Abbey. In 1189 the monks of Newbattle established a salt works and the neighbourhood came to be known as Prestonpans. The place name **Prestonpans** is derived from the salt industry practised there. By 1974 the works was disused, and it has since been demolished. This was the last saltworks in Scotland, a survivor from the once-flourishing industry of making salt by evaporating sea water using coal as a fuel. Latterly it was a packing station for salt brought in in bulk from English salt producers.



Prestonpans

Another district on the East Coast was named Saltpan Hall and there were similar salt activities on the coast of Buchan in Aberdeenshire and the shores of the Moray Firth.