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United Kingdom

Capital: London

Population: 63,047,162

Geography of United Kingdom

Borders: [Republic of Ireland](#) (only land border), Atlantic Ocean, North Sea, English Channel, maritime (water) borders with [France](#), the [Netherlands](#), [Belgium](#), [Denmark](#), [Norway](#), [Iceland](#), and [Spain](#)

Total Size: 244,820 square km

Size Comparison: slightly smaller than Oregon



Geographical Coordinates: 54 00 N, 2 00 W

World Region or Continent: [Europe](#)

General Terrain: mostly rugged hills and low mountains; level to rolling plains in east and southeast

Geographical Low Point: The Fens -4 m

Geographical High Point: Ben Nevis 1,343 m

Climate: temperate; moderated by prevailing southwest winds over the North Atlantic Current; more than one-half of the days are overcast

Major Cities: LONDON (capital) 8.615 million; Birmingham 2.296 million; Manchester 2.247 million; West Yorkshire 1.541 million; Glasgow 1.166 million (2009)

Major Landforms: Island of Great Britain, Island of Ireland (northern fifth), Cumbrian Mountains, Pennines, Hebrides Islands, Shetland Islands, Scottish Highlands, Ben Nevis, Highland Boundary Fault, Mourne Mountains

Major Bodies of Water: Thames River, Severn River, Humber River, Lough Neagh (lake), Loch Lomond, Windermere, Bala Lake, English Channel, North Sea, Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, Atlantic Ocean

Famous Places: Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, Stonehenge, Westminster Palace, Big Ben, London Eye, Windsor Castle, Trafalgar Square, Cotswolds, St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower Bridge, Hyde Park, Loch Ness, Wembley Stadium, Ben Nevis, Globe Theatre, Edinburgh Castle, White Cliffs of Dover, Channel Tunnel



Palace of Westminster

Economy of United Kingdom

Major Industries: machine tools, electric power equipment, automation equipment, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment, metals, chemicals, coal, petroleum, paper and paper products, food processing, textiles, clothing, other consumer goods

Agricultural Products: cereals, oilseed, potatoes, vegetables; cattle, sheep, poultry; fish

Natural Resources: coal, petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, lead, zinc, gold, tin, limestone, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, potash, silica sand, slate, arable land

Major Exports: manufactured goods, fuels, chemicals; food, beverages, tobacco

Major Imports: manufactured goods, machinery, fuels; foodstuffs

Currency: British pound (GBP)

National GDP: \$2,288,000,000,000

Government of United Kingdom

Type of Government: constitutional monarchy

Independence: England has existed as a unified entity since the 10th century; the union between England and Wales, begun in 1284 with the Statute of Rhuddlan, was not formalized until 1536 with an Act of Union; in another Act of Union in 1707, England and Scotland agreed to permanently join as Great Britain; the legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland was implemented in 1801, with the adoption of the name the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; the Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921 formalized a partition of Ireland; six northern Irish counties remained part of the United Kingdom as Northern Ireland and the current name of the country, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was adopted in 1927.

Divisions: The United Kingdom consists of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Each country has its own way of forming administrative divisions of the government. England is divided up into nine regions, Scotland into 32 council areas, Wales into 22 authorities, and Northern Ireland into 26 districts.

The nine regions of England are:

1. North East
2. North West
3. Yorkshire and the Humber

4. East Midlands
5. West Midlands
6. East of England
7. London
8. South East
9. South West



Tower of London

National Anthem or Song: God Save the Queen

National Symbols:

- Animal - Bulldog (England), Lion
- Bird - Red Kite (Wales)
- Flower - Tudor Rose (England), Thistle (Scotland), Flax Flower (Northern Ireland)
- Tree - Royal Oak
- Colors - Red, white, and blue
- Motto - "God and my Right", "In Defense" (Scotland)
- Other symbols - Unicorn (Scotland), Welsh Dragon (Wales), Britannia

Description of flag: The flag of the United Kingdom was adopted on January 1, 1801. The name of the flag is the Union Jack. It has a blue background (field) with a red cross outlined in white and a red "x" outlined in white.



Other flags:

- England - White with a red cross.
- Scotland - Blue with a white "x".
- Wales - Two horizontal stripes of white (top) and green (bottom) with a red dragon.

National Holiday: the UK does not celebrate one particular national holiday

Other Holidays: New Years' Day (January 1), Saint Patrick's Day (March 17), Easter, May Day (May 1), Bank Holiday, Christmas (December 25), Boxing Day (December 26)



Flag of Scotland

The People of United Kingdom

Languages Spoken: English, Welsh (about 26% of the population of Wales), Scottish form of Gaelic (about 60,000 in Scotland)

Nationality: Briton(s), British (collective plural)

Religions: Christian (Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist) 71.6%, Muslim 2.7%, Hindu 1%, other 1.6%, unspecified or none 23.1% (2001 census)

Origin of the name United Kingdom: The name "United Kingdom" is short for the official name of the country which is the "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland." The term "Great Britain" is used to describe the island that contains the three countries England, Scotland, and Wales. When Northern Ireland was added, the country became known as the United Kingdom.

Famous People:

- [David Beckham](#) - Soccer player
- [Winston Churchill](#) - Prime Minister during World War II
- [Captain James Cook](#) - Explorer
- [Princess Diana](#) - Famous Princess
- [Sir Francis Drake](#) - Explorer and privateer
- [Elizabeth I](#) - Queen of England during the Elizabethan Era
- Mick Jagger - Singer for the Rolling Stones

- John Lennon - Singer for the Beatles
- [David Lloyd George](#) - Prime Minister during World War I
- [Henry VIII](#) - King of England broke with the Catholic Church
- [Henry Hudson](#) - Explorer
- [Isaac Newton](#) - Scientist
- J.K. Rowling - Author who wrote the *Harry Potter* series
- [William Shakespeare](#) - Playwright
- [Margaret Thatcher](#) - Prime Minister during the end of the Cold War
- [J.M.W. Turner](#) - Painter
- [William the Conqueror](#) - Norman invader
- [Queen Victoria](#) - Queen of England during the Victorian Era

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** Source for population (2012 est.) and GDP (2011 est.) is CIA World Factbook.

Which superpower would you want if you were a Superhero?

- ☐ Super Strength
- ☐ Flying
- ☐ Super Speed
- ☐ Invisibility
- ☐ Super Stretch

Vote

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GEOGRAPHY OF THE UK

In this topic, we look at the geography of the UK. We look at facts about the UK and we see how Britain is a modern country with a rich heritage. From the traditional to the modern, from the unique to the exciting. We look at images of the UK and there information and activities all designed to help you understand all about the Geography of the UK.

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Facts about the UK

UK map



Where is the UK?



The UK is in north-west Europe between the North Sea and the Atlantic ocean. An island country, it is the 9th largest island in the world.

Population of the UK

The population of the UK is 63,395,574 (July 2013 estimate). It is the 22nd largest population in the world. It is 51st most densely populated country in the world.

Land area

Covers an area of 243,610 sq km. Roughly the same size as Ecuador, Ghana and Romania. It is the 80th largest country in the world.

Language of the UK

English is the official language of the UK.

Flag of the UK.



Capital city of the UK

The capital city of the UK is London, which has a population 8,174,000 people in the built up area. This makes it the 3rd largest city in Europe.

National day

The United Kingdom does not have a specific national day. The days of the patron saints of each country are often considered to be like national days.

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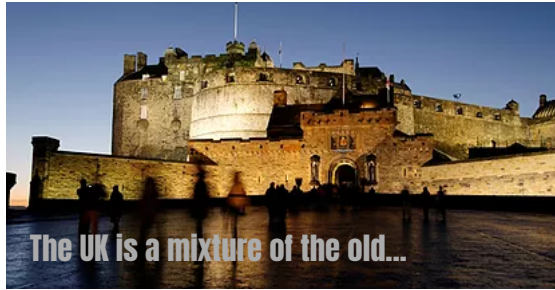
USA

Currency

In the UK, Pound sterling is used for currency.

Climate The UK has a temperate climate; moderated by prevailing southwest winds over the North Atlantic Current; making it warmer than its northerly latitude would suggest.

Geography Images - the United Kingdom.



The UK is a mixture of the old...

The United Kingdom is home to hundreds of castles built during the previous thousand years. Some are still in use today, for example, this castle in Edinburgh.

The Olympics were held in London for the third time in 2012, the first city in the world to hold such an honour. They brought the country together and had a wonderfully uplifting effect on the nation. It helped portray a more modern image of the UK to the world.



...and the new.



Geography Images - the United Kingdom. A land with a rich heritage.



There is a long tradition of democracy in the United Kingdom with constitutional law dating its history back to the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215.

London is the capital city of the United Kingdom but it is also classed as a global city as it is an important part of the economic system. In fact it is one of only two Alpha ++ cities in the world that are classed as such due to their economic and political influence. Also taken into consideration in ranking global cities is the cultural and infrastructure present in a city.

Source: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_city)



A common scene in the countryside will be of fields with rolling hills dotted around with little villages. Despite the majority of Britons being urban dwellers, the countryside holds a popular place in the hearts of Britons with many laws designed to protect it.



The financial industry plays a large part in the economy through banking, insurance and investments. London has a large stock exchange and it is the largest foreign currency trading centre in the world.

The United Kingdom has a strong cultural heritage which continues today through media companies, music and films. The James Bond films continue to please audiences around the world.



The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy with the current reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, coming to the throne in 1952.

Videos for school - UK



The UK National anthem.



Ten interesting facts about the royal family.

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Who are we?

A group of teachers with one thing in common - we all have a passion for the subject of Geography. Through collecting great examples of bringing the subject alive, and sharing them on this website, we aim to develop a love for the subject of Geography in children around the world.

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Got any ideas that you would like to see us include or have you got any suggestions on topics that you would like us to find resources for? Then please contact us with your suggestions and comments so that we can improve our website further.

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Project Britain

British Life and Culture

by Mandy Barrow

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British life and culture - England, Scotland and Wales

Geography of the UK

The official title of the UK is the [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#).

The UK is made up of:

- **Great Britain** (the formerly separate realms of [England](#) and [Scotland](#), and the principality of [Wales](#).)
- [Northern Ireland](#) (also known as Ulster)
- **Numerous smaller islands** including the Isle of Wight, Anglesey, and the Scilly, Orkney, Shetland, and Hebridean archipelagos.

Where is the UK?

The UK is an island nation in Western Europe just off the coast of France. The mainland areas lie between latitudes 49°N and 59°N and longitudes 8°W to 2°E.

The UK lies between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea, and comes within 35 km (22 miles) of the northwest coast of France, from which it is separated by the English Channel. Northern Ireland shares a 360 km international land boundary with the Republic of Ireland. The Channel Tunnel bored beneath the English Channel, now links the UK with France.

How big an area does the UK cover?

The UK has a total area of approximately 245,000 km², almost a quarter-of-a-million square kilometres.



Interesting Fact

No one in the UK lives more than 120 km (75 miles) from the sea.

Seas surrounding the UK

The UK is made up of several islands. The only **land border** connecting the UK to another country is between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The UK is bordered by four seas:

- to the south by the **English Channel**, which separates it from continental Europe
- to the east by the **North Sea**
- to the west by the **Irish Sea** and the **Atlantic Ocean**

The Land

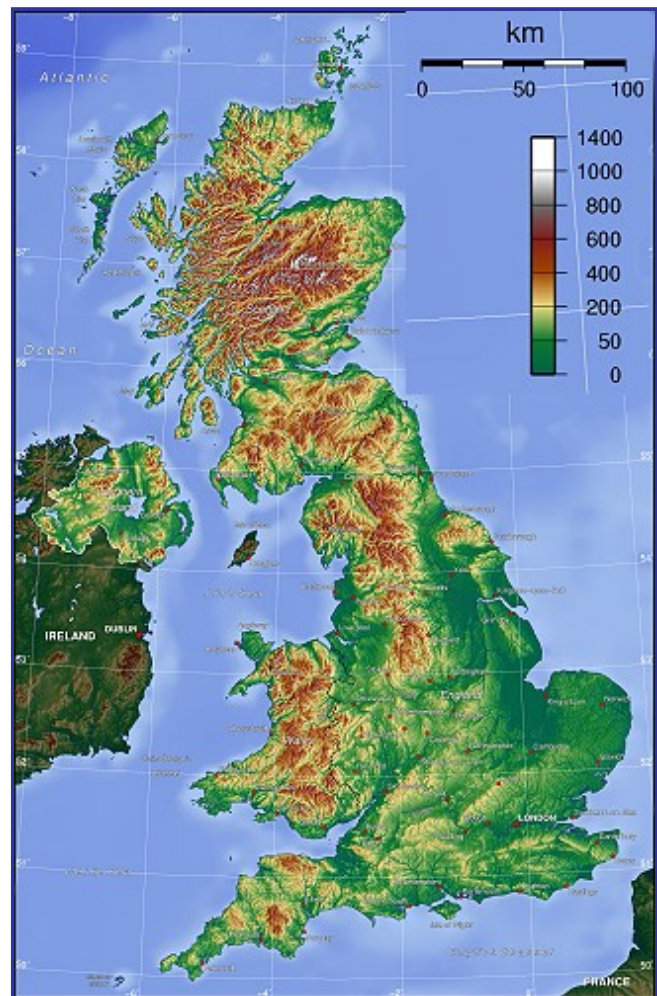
The UK Landscape is very varied, ranging from the **Grampian Mountains** of Scotland to the **lowland fens** of England which are at or below sea level in places.

Scotland and Wales are the most **mountainous** parts of the UK. A ridge of hills, the **Pennine**, runs down the centre of northern England. Many coastal areas are low-lying, especially in the east and south of England. These include the wetlands of the Somerset levels, that regularly flood during heavy rain.

Most of the UK is made up of **gently rolling hills** with isolated areas of high ground such as Dartmoor in the south-west of England or the Mourne Mountains in Northern Ireland.

Lakes

Northern Ireland is also home to the UK's **largest lake**, Lough Neagh, which covers an area of 396sq.km (153 sq miles). Other major lakes include Windermere in the English Lake District and Loch Lomond in Scotland. Another of Scotland's lakes, Loch Ness is famous for sightings of 'Nessie', a mythical monster!



[Find out more about the landscape of England](#)

UK Rivers

Being a relatively small Island, the UK's rivers are not very long. The [Severn](#), its longest river, is just 338 km in length, beginning in Wales and entering the Atlantic Ocean near Bristol in England. Other major rivers include the [Thames](#), which flows through Oxford and London, and the Trent and Mersey rivers, which drain rainfall from large areas of central England.

[Find out more about UK Rivers](#)

Climate

The UK's climate varies greatly according to season and location, but on the whole can be described as mild with few extremes.

[Find out more about the climate](#)

Facts

- The capital of England is [London](#). Sometimes referred to the capital of Britain. London is built along the [River Thames](#)
- Three quarters of the land in Britain is used for [farming](#).
- Nine out of ten people [live in towns and cities](#).
- The highest mountains are in Scotland and Wales.
- More than two-thirds of people [own their own homes](#).

[Quick Facts on the UK](#)

England and Alabama	Scotland and South Carolina	The UK and Oregon
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Mandy is the creator of the Woodlands Resources section of the Woodlands Junior website. The two websites projectbritain.com and primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk are the new homes for the Woodlands Resources.

Mandy left Woodlands in 2003 to work in Kent schools as an ICT Consultant.
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ARTICLES

UNITED KINGDOM



FAST FACTS

OFFICIAL NAME: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Constitutional monarchy with parliamentary government

CAPITAL: London

POPULATION: 63,742,977

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: English

MONEY: Pound sterling

AREA: 93,635 square miles (242,514 square kilometers)

MAJOR RIVERS: Thames, Severn, Tyne



NATURE

About 5,000 years ago, the center of the United Kingdom was covered with thick forests. Thousands of years ago, these woodlands were cleared by ancient farmers, and today only about 10 percent of the land is forest.

The United Kingdom's complex geology gives rise to a wide variety of landscapes and a range of habitats for its animal and plant life. But it is a very crowded country, and there are not

The United Kingdom, also called the U.K., consists of a group of islands off the northwest coast of Europe. It is a unique country made up of four nations: England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. England, Wales, and Scotland also make up Great Britain.

Much of the north and west of the U.K. is covered in high ground, knife-edged mountain ridges separated by deep valleys. This terrain was shaped in the last Ice Age, when thick glaciers covered the land.

In the south of England, the countryside is mostly rolling hills. In northwest England and the Scottish Highlands are dozens of lakes, called lochs. These were left behind when the Ice Age glaciers melted. They tend to be long and narrow, and some are very deep. Legends say that a giant monster called Nessie lives in Loch Ness in Scotland.

PEOPLE & CULTURE

The British are the creation of waves of invaders and migrants, including Celts, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, and Normans. In the 1950s and 1960s, people from former colonies in the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia came to the United Kingdom to work.

Sports and literature are among the United Kingdom's cultural claims to fame. Soccer, rugby, cricket, boxing, and golf were all invented in Britain. And the U.K. has produced many great writers, including William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, and Robert Burns. J.K. Rowling, the writer of the Harry Potter books, is British.

offer habitat that is relatively untouched by humans. The country's 7,700 miles (12,429 kilometers) of shoreline, ranging from tall cliffs to beaches to marshes, also provide homes for wildlife such as seabirds and seals.



British Pound Sterling,
Photograph by Norman
Pogson, Dreamstime

GOVERNMENT & ECONOMY

Britain's system of government has developed over many centuries. Kings once ruled with advice from a council of religious leaders and nobles. This council eventually expanded into the Parliament, which now passes all the country's laws. Today, the monarch (which can be a king or queen) has no real power.

The United Kingdom has more than 500 years. In the 19th century, British industry helped make the country the most powerful nation in the world. It is still one of the strongest economies on Earth.

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KIDS

HISTORY

The first Britons (people who live in the United Kingdom) were the Picts, who arrived about 10,000 years ago. In the eighth century B.C., the Celts arrived from Europe and pushed the Picts north into Scotland. In A.D. 43, the Romans invaded and ruled for nearly 400 years. They built roads, bathhouses, sewers, and large villas.

By the sixth century A.D., [German](#) peoples known as Angles, Jutes, and Saxons were moving into Britain. The Angles gave their name to England, and English people became known as Anglo-Saxons. From the 900s to the 1400s, England was ruled by Viking, Danish, and Norman invaders.

By the 1800s, Britain was one of the most powerful nations in the world. Trade generated immense wealth, and the country built a huge overseas empire. But the early 20th century was a time of setbacks for Britain. Drained by World War I and II, Britain could no longer afford its empire, and most of its colonies became independent.



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