

## GREAT BRITAIN

The official name of the country is **the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**.

Great Britain consists of three parts: England, Scotland and Wales.



### England

England is the biggest country in the UK and 84% of the population lives there. England is mainly flat with small hills. The largest city is **London**. It is also **the capital** of England and capital of the UK. Other big cities include **Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and Liverpool**. Famous historical towns include **Oxford and Cambridge**, with their old universities, a mysterious stone formation called **Stonehenge** can be found near Salisbury town and Bath, a Roman spa town. The **white cliffs of Dover** are also famous.

### Scotland

Scotland is a country in the north of the UK. Its capital is **Edinburgh**, famous for its castle. There are mostly mountains with lots of small lakes (lochs). One of the most famous is **Loch Ness** where a mysterious monster is supposed to live. The Scottish traditional dress is **the kilt**, a kind of skirt, worn by men. **Ben Nevis** in Scotland is the UK's highest mountain.



### Northern Ireland

In the past all of Ireland was part of the UK, but now only Northern Ireland is part of the UK. Ireland is an independent country. The famous ship the Titanic was built in Belfast, which is the capital of Northern Ireland.

### Wales

Wales is in the west of the UK, there are mountains and people speak two languages, in the streets everything is written in two languages and children study in two languages – in English and Welsh.

### Geography

Great Britain is situated in the north-west of Europe.

It is the largest of the British Isles [ajls].

It is an island [ajlend] country. There are over 1,000 smaller surrounding islands. The country is very green. There are many fields and sheep. The longest river in the UK is **the Severn**, major rivers include **the Thames** [temz] which flows through Oxford and London, or **the Avon**, which flows through Stratford where Shakespeare was born. The highest mountains are **the Scottish Highlands**.

### Climate

Great Britain has a temperate climate [klajmit], it is famous for its wet weather, it often rains in England. People wear raincoats, anoraks or umbrellas.

### Political system

The country's political system is a **constitutional monarchy**, which means it has a parliament and a monarch.

At the moment the monarch is **Queen Elizabeth II** (the second). She is the head of the country. The currency is British pound. The national flag of the United Kingdom is called the Union Jack.

### Famous people

Famous people from the United Kingdom include politicians [politišns], musicians [mjuzišns], actors and actresses [ektrs ektrisis], sportsmen [spórtsmen], scientists [sájentysts], writers [wraitrs] and many more.. The most important is head of the country, **Queen Elizabeth the second** and her family... **William Shakespeare**, a playwright and poet from the 16th and 17th century... **Isaac Newton**, who developed among other things the theory of gravity... **the Beatles**, who are one of the most popular pop groups of all time, One Direction, Spice Girls or the Queen... **Charles Dickens**, a novelist from the 19th century... Monty Python, a very influential comedy group. The United Kingdom is also famous for **many fictitious characters** such as the spy James Bond, the detective Sherlock Holmes and the boy wizard Harry Potter. David Beckham, a football player, Diana, the princess of Wales, Robbie Williams or David Bowie and many more famous people.

### Sports

British people like / enjoy... playing **football**, with matches on most weekends... cricket in the summer... **rugby**, which is associated with public school students... **tennis and Wimbledon**, the most famous tennis championship, polo, if they are very rich... going rambling, which is to go for a hike... watching horse-racing... seeing pantomimes at Christmas time... going to the local pub for a pint/na pivo (pinta=0.7l)

