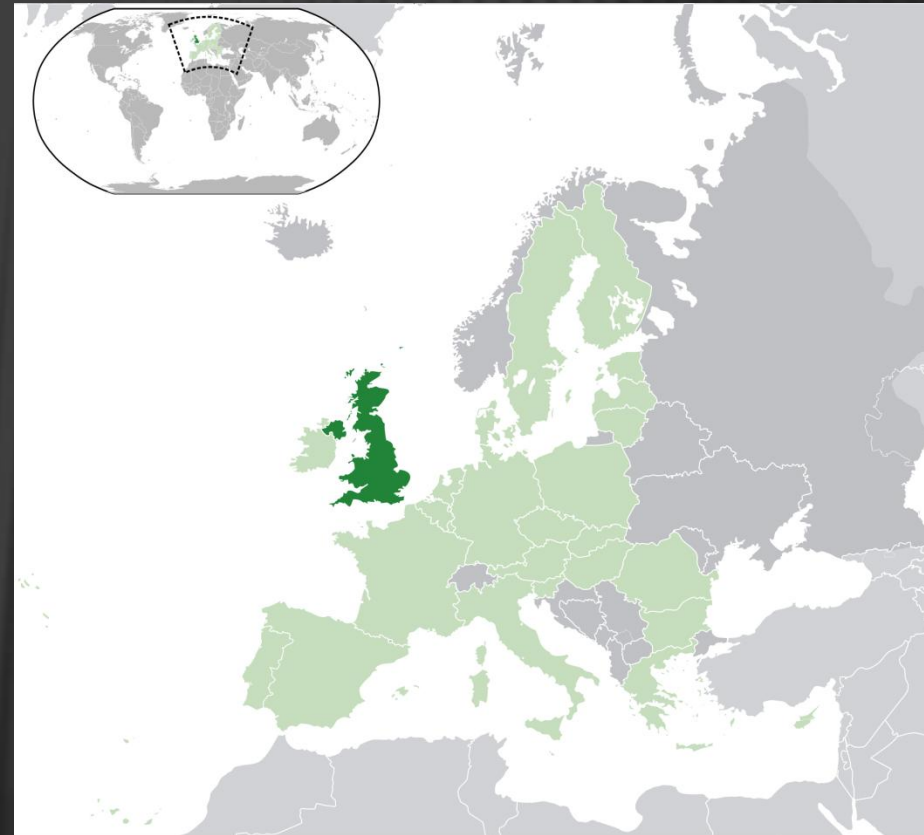


THE UNITED KINGDOM

LOCATION

- ✘ Western Europe
- ✘ Island of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
- ✘ Surrounded by the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean



GENERAL INFORMATION

- × Capital: London (also the largest city)
- × Population: 60 million
- × Language: English
- × Currency: Pound sterling (£; GBP)
- × Anthem: God Save the Queen

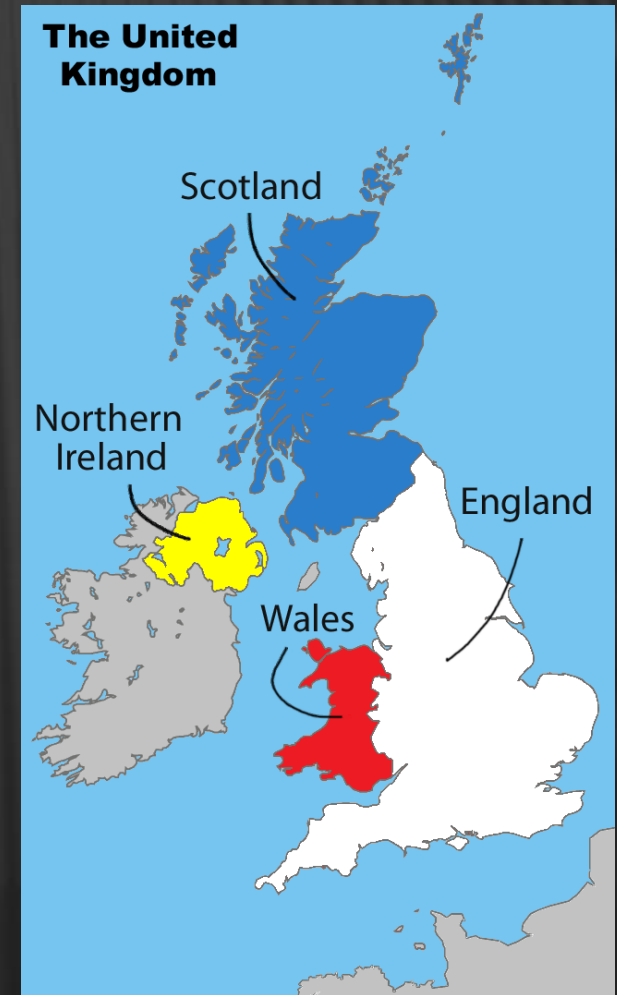
GEOGRAPHY

- ✘ Area of about 250 000 km²
- ✘ Longest rivers: Severn, Thames
- ✘ Highest mountains: Ben Nevis, Snowdon
- ✘ Weather: changeable, unpredictable



POLITICAL DIVISIONS

- ✘ England
- ✘ Wales
- ✘ Scotland
- ✘ Northern Ireland



THE SOUTHEAST

- × the most densely populated region of Britain
- × very urban and industrial
- × many factories all along the river Thames
- × London (city), Kent (county), Dover (port)
- × White Cliffs of Dover, Canterbury

EAST ANGLIA

- × extremely flat
- × an agricultural region
- × fishing
- × sandy beaches, historic cities
- × Cambridge – an old university town from 13th century
- × Colchester – the first city we have any writing about in history

THE HEART OF ENGLAND = THE MIDLANDS

- ✗ very industrial region (textile production and mining)
- ✗ Birmingham – important industrial and business centre
- ✗ Liverpool – port on the west coast
- ✗ Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon – historic towns

NORTH ENGLAND

- ✗ wild nature and the loneliest countryside
- ✗ Lake District – National Park
- ✗ Towns – Leeds, York and Newcastle

SCOTLAND

- ✘ wild nature, an area of mountains, lochs (lakes), and beautiful forests
- ✘ small lonely islands
- ✘ Industry – steel-production and engineering
- ✘ Edinburgh – castle, festival
- ✘ Glasgow – port, industrial centre

HISTORY

- ✘ First inhabited by hunter-gatherers after the last ice-age
- ✘ Vikings, German
- ✘ 13th century: Unified by Edward I (= *Britain*)
- ✘ 1707: the Treaty of Union (= *The Kingdom of Great Britain*)
- ✘ 1800: GB and Ireland merged (= *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland*)
- ✘ 1922: Irish Free State (= *The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*)
- ✘ Today are British people ruled by Parliament, not monarchs

POLITICAL SYSTEM

- × Parliamentary democracy,
 - + based on constitutional and hereditary monarchy
- × Current queen Elizabeth II is the formal head of state
- × People vote for members of Parliament
- × Government appoints peers in the House of Lords
- × Parliament consists of three parts
 - + The House of Commons
 - + The House of Lords
 - + The Queen in Parliament
- × Scotland has its own Parliament
- × Northern Ireland and Wales have their own Assemblies which have less power than the Scottish parliament

ECONOMY

- × Developed country
- × 5th largest economy in the world
- × During 18th, 19th and early 20th century was a superpower
- × Strong economic, cultural, military and political influence
- × Member of EU, G8, NATO
- × London is one of the largest finance center in the world

CULTURE

- ✗ Many Hollywood films based on British people and stories
 - + Titanic, Harry Potter, The Lord of the Rings
- ✗ Literature
 - + William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens...
 - + Scottish literature: Arthur Conan Doyle
 - + Fantasy: J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis and J. K. Rowling
- ✗ Media
 - + BBC
- ✗ Music
 - + The Beatles, Queen...
- ✗ Science
 - + Sir Issac Newton, Charles Darwin

MAJOR PLACES OF INTEREST

- × London
- × Stonehenge (*circle of ancient stones*)
- × Legoland Windsor (*theme park around Lego toy system*)
- × Flamingo Land (*Theme Park, Zoo and Holiday village*)
- × Kew Gardens (*extensive gardens, glasshouses, museums*)
- × Windsor Castle (*largest and oldest occupied castle in the world*)
- × Canterbury Cathedral (*cathedral of the Archbishop of Canterbury*)
- × Hampton Court Palace (*royal palace, not inhabited by royal family since 18th century*)