

## ● What is the UK and where is it?

The UK (full name: The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) is in the north-west of Europe. It is an island and it is a member of the European Union.

## ● What does the United Kingdom mean?

The UK is made of four nations that joined together: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The flag is the Union Jack. There are 65 million people in the UK. The people are called British but if they are specifically from England they are English; from Scotland, Scottish; from Wales, Welsh or from Northern Ireland, Irish.

## ● Can you tell me about 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, and Bath, a Roman spa town. The white cliffs of Dover are also famous.

## ● And what about Scotland?

Scotland is a country in the north of the UK. Its capital is Edinburgh, famous for its castle. It is a mostly mountainous area 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.

## ● What do you know about 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. The Giant's Causeway is a famous natural landmark with tall volcanic columns.

## ● And finally, what about Wales?

Wales is a mountainous country on the western side of the UK. People speak both English and Welsh. It has a strong Celtic tradition. Wales has its own flag, which has a red dragon on it. Wales is famous for its beautiful natural scenery and castles. Rugby is the national sport and Cardiff is the capital of Wales. Snowdon is the highest peak in Wales.

## ● Can you tell me about the capital of the UK?

London is the capital city and it has a population of about 11 million people. It's a multicultural city. People come from all over the world and speak different languages. The River Thames runs through the city. Some famous sights include the Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, and Westminster and St Paul's Cathedral. 'The Tube', or underground, is a system of trains that runs under the city.

## ● What sports are popular in the UK?

Football is the most popular sport; famous teams include Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal. Rugby, cricket and tennis are also popular. Cricket is played in the summer and it is England's national sport. Wimbledon is a famous tennis competition that takes place every year in London.

## ● Can you tell me about any famous British people?

Famous British actors include Colin Firth, Daniel Day-Lewis, Jude Law, Emma Watson and Keira Knightley. David Beckham and Wayne Rooney are famous football players. The Beatles were one of the biggest pop bands in the world in the 1960s. Nowadays One Direction are known worldwide.

## ● What do you know about British culture?

British people are famous for drinking tea with milk, eating fish and chips and talking about the weather! They have a royal family and the Queen now is Queen Elizabeth II. The UK has a lot of history and there are lots of museums and art galleries.

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Giant's Causeway



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