

## Student's Worksheet

### Over the map of the UK

The official name of the country is the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**. It lies off the north-west coast of Europe across **the English Channel, the Strait of Dover and the North Sea**. It is connected to continental Europe by the **Channel Tunnel** (31 miles = 50 km long) which is the longest underwater tunnel in the world. It consists of **the island of Great Britain**, the north-eastern part of **the island of Ireland** and many small islands (e.g.: **the Isles of Scilly, the Isle of Wight, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, the Isle of Anglesey, the Hebrides, the Orkneys, the Shetlands**). It covers the area of 243,610 km<sup>2</sup>.

**The United Kingdom** consists of four countries: **England** (the capital is **London**), **Scotland** (the capital is **Edinburgh**), **Wales** (the capital is **Cardiff**) and **Northern Ireland** (the capital is **Belfast**). **England, Scotland and Wales** form **Great Britain**. The capital of the whole **United Kingdom** is **London**.

British mountains are low. The highest mountain is **Ben Nevis** (1,343 m) in **the Scottish Highlands**. The second highest mountain is **Snowdon** (1,085 m) in **the Cambrian Mountains** in Wales. The other ranges are **the Cheviot Hills** on the border between England and Scotland, **the Cumbrian Mountains** in **the Lake District** and **the Pennines** in the central part of England, sometimes called "the backbone of the country".

The most famous English river is **the Thames** which is 346 km long, but the longest river in the United Kingdom is **the Severn** (354 km long). Other important rivers are e.g.: **the Trent, the Tyne or the Avon**.

Lakes can be found in the north of England (**Lake District**), in Scotland and in Northern Ireland (**Ulster**). The largest lake in Lake District is **Windermere**. It's one of the most popular places for holidays. The lakes in Scotland are called lochs and the most famous is **Loch Ness**. This lake is very deep and many



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people believe there lives a monster (Nessie), but it has never been proved. Nevertheless, Loch Ness isn't the largest lake there - it is **Loch Lomond**. The largest lake in the United Kingdom is situated in Ulster in Northern Ireland -it's **Lough Neagh**.

The largest cities are:

England: **London, Birmingham, Liverpool Manchester**

Scotland: **Edinburgh, Glasgow**

Wales: **Cardiff, Swansea**

Northern Ireland: **Belfast, Londonderry**

The population is about 63,200,000 inhabitants. All of them are the British, but they consist of the English, the Scottish, the Welsh, the Irish and the immigrants from former British colonies and some Europeans and Asians. The official language is English, but there are also regional languages as Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Irish or Cornish.

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy, the official head of the state is Queen Elizabeth II, but in practice it's a parliamentary democracy. It's a rich country. The main industries are food industry, chemical industry, pharmaceutical industry, electronics and aircraft industry and fishing. The currency is a pound sterling.

The British national flag is sometimes called "Union Jack". It symbolizes the Union of England, Scotland and Ireland.

Each country has its cross in the flag:

England has St. George's Cross.

Scotland has St. Andrew's Cross.

Ireland has St. Patrick's Cross.

The national anthem is "God save the Queen".