

- 20 Read the text, give the names of the five principal parts of the country described in the text and show them on the map.

DISCOVER BRITAIN: ENGLAND

30. The United Kingdom is very small compared with many other countries in the world. However there are only nine other countries with more people, and London is the world's seventh biggest city. When you travel about the country you can see how the scenery changes right in front of your eyes. Highlands turn into lowlands, forests and hills turn into meadows and plains very quickly. It's hard

to believe, but in Great Britain one can find practically any type of scenery. Often what people first notice about Britain, especially if they arrive by plane, is the green of the fields, hedges and trees. Britain is an unusually beautiful country!

We want to take you on an exciting journey through the whole country from Scotland and Northern Ireland to England and Wales. We'll begin our journey with England, the largest part of the UK, it consists of five regions: the Southeast, the Southwest, East Anglia, the Midlands and the North of England.

The Southeast is a highly populated region of England; there is a lot of industry near the Thames and there are a lot of roads and motorways. London, the capital of the UK, and such historical cities as Windsor, Dover and Brighton are situated here. When people travel to Britain by sea or air they usually arrive in the Southeast, for this is where the main passenger ports and airports are. Heathrow Airport, one of the world's busiest airports is about 33 km west of central London. However, there is still attractive countryside in the Southeast. The County of Kent situated here is known as the garden of England. The Southeast is famous for its resorts, Brighton is, probably, the best known of them.

The Southwest is the region where the main activity is farming. Although there are some very big farms, most of them are small family farms where dairy products are produced. The Southwest used to be known for its pirates. The romantic past makes it a popular place for artists, writers and holidaymakers. The two principal cities of the region



are Bristol and Bath. If you want to see the famous Stonehenge, one of the remarkable historic places in the UK, you should also come here. The most westerly point of Great Britain "Land's End" is also in the Southwest.

East Anglia is very flat and it is another farming region. It has beautiful cities, such as Cambridge, with fine historic buildings. The part of East Anglia called the Fens consists of miles of flat land with almost no trees or hedges. It used to be partly covered by the sea and now produces good harvests.

Oliver Cromwell, an English general and politician (1599—1658) who was leader of the army against King Charles I in the Civil War and later became Lord Protector of England, was born in the Fens area. East Anglia is isolated from the rest of Britain because of its position away from the main national roads and because of its shape: it is more than half surrounded by the sea.

The Midlands, known as the heart of England, is the largest industrial part in the country. The most important industrial cities are Manchester, Sheffield, Liverpool, which is one of Britain's big ports, and Birmingham. The two famous Midlands cities, Stratford-upon-Avon and Oxford are connected with English culture: Stratford is the birthplace of the great William Shakespeare and Oxford is famous for its university.

The North of England has some of the wildest and loneliest parts of the country, but also some of the busiest industrial cities. Here you can find deep valleys, rivers and waterfalls, hills and mountains. This part of the country is rich in coal which is important for the region's industry.

The main attractions of the North of England are certainly the Lake District, the cities of York and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Many tourists come over especially to look at the ruins of Hadrian's Wall, a stone wall built across the North of England by the order of the Roman ruler Hadrian to defend the Northern border of Roman Britain from the Scottish tribes.