



*The United Kingdom  
of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland*

# Where is the UK?



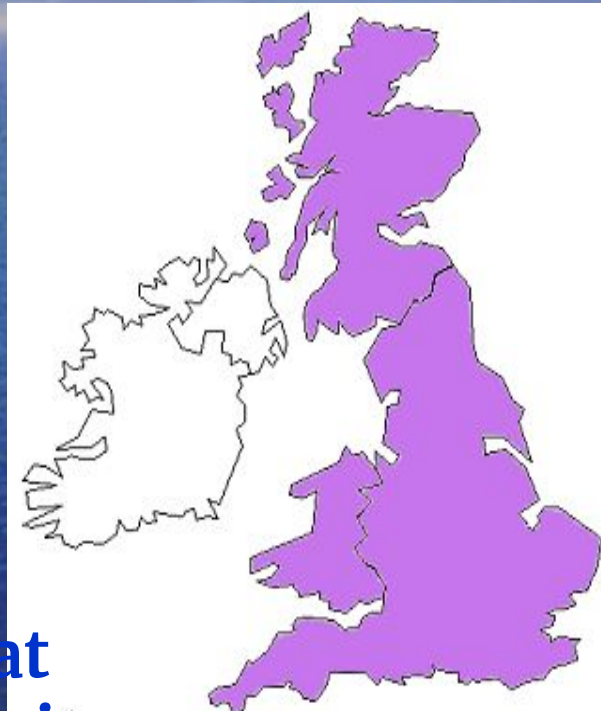
The UK is situated on the **British Isles**, north-west of the European continent between the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea. It has a total land area of 244,100 square kilometres, of which nearly 99% is land and the remainder inland water. From north to south it is about 1,000 kilometres long.

The official name of the UK is the "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland".



# THE BRITISH ISLES

Is Great Britain the same as the UK? **NO!**



Great Britain



The UK

People in the UK are called British although they have different nationalities.

If you look at the full name of the UK, you will see that the UK includes Great



# The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



The Union Flag, popularly known as the Union Jack, symbolises the union of the countries of the UK. It is made up of the individual flags of three countries in the Kingdom.

John Bull is a fictional character. He is a national personification of the UK.

Which countries?



© Mandy Barrow

**ANTHEM:**  
God save our gracious Queen!



The capital of the UK is London



# LONDON



Big Ben



The Tower



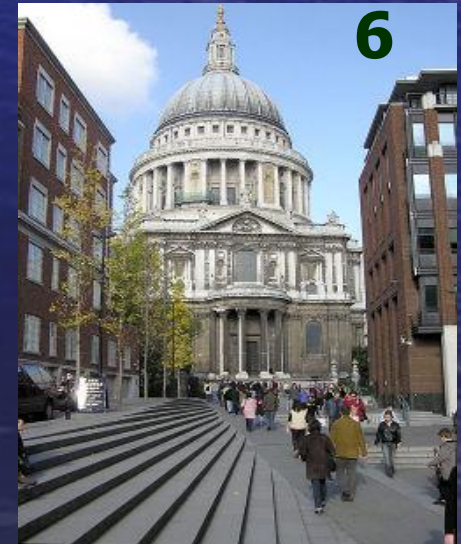
Buckingham Palace



Trafalgar Square



Westminster Abbey



St Paul's



# Politics of the United Kingdom

The UK is a **parliamentary** democracy with a **constitutional Monarch** as Head



Gordon Brown was appointed Prime Minister in June 2007

**The Prime Minister of the UK** is the political leader of the United Kingdom and the Head of **Her Majesty's Government.**



**Elizabeth II**



# The Government is like the management of the country. The job of the Government is to run the country. It is made up of about 100 members of the political party which wins the most seats at a general election.

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**The Cabinet Room**



**Number 10** Downing Street is the residence and office of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The headquarters of Her Majesty's Government.



# The British Parliament

While the job of Government is to run the

country, the job of Parliament is to check

Government is carrying out its role properly and effectively. To do this, Parliament has

powers to limit the Government and prevent it from becoming too powerful.

## The Parliament works in Westminster Palace



The Parliament consists of two chambers known as **the House of Lords** and **the House of Commons**.





# The House of Commons



House of Commons  
Chamber: Speaker's  
chair



646 elected  
Members of  
Parliament  
or MPs.



The Speaker in the  
House  
of Commons



# The House of Lords



Lord  
Chancellor

The House of Lords  
(approximately  
743 **unelected** members, most of  
them  
appointed for life)  
The House of Lords: Lords  
mace on the Woolsack



# What countries make up the UK?



**Northern Ireland**  
**Capital: Belfast**



**Scotland**  
**Capital: Edinburgh**



**England**  
**Capital: London**



**Wales**  
**Capital: Cardiff**

**Short facts about**  
**the UK**



# LONDON

# Check Yourself!

1



2



3



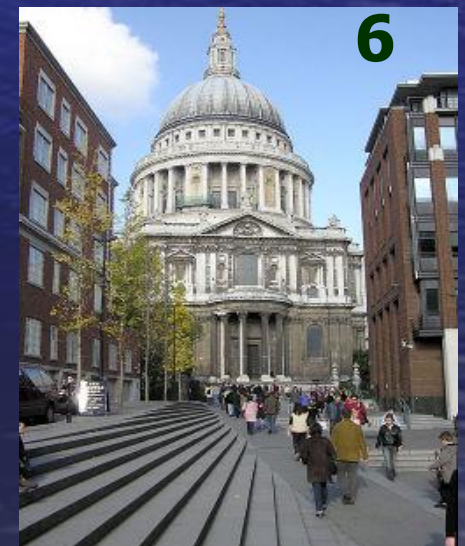
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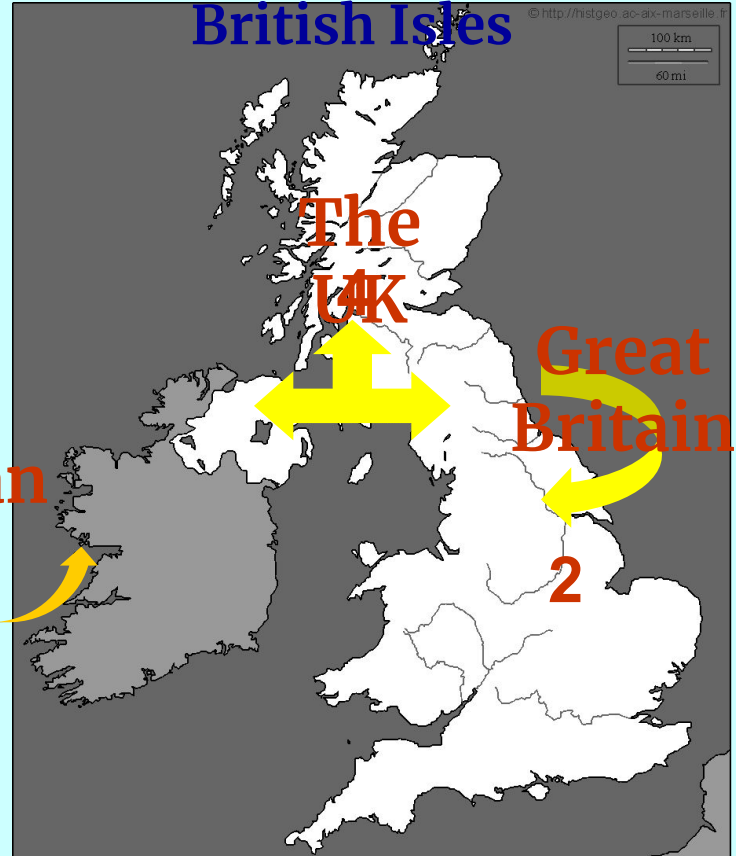
6



# CHECK YOURSELF!

- 1 Where is the UK situated?
- 2 What is the official name of the UK?
- 3 What are people called in the UK?
- 4 What is Great Britain?
- 5 Is Great Britain the same as the UK?
- 6 What is the capital of the UK?
- 7 What is the nickname of the British flag?
- 8 Is John Bull a real man?
- 9 Is the UK a republic or a monarchy?
- 10 Who runs the UK?
- 11 What is the British Parliament like?
- 12 Where does the Parliament work?
- 13 Who are MPs?
- 14 Who is the Prime Minister?
- 15 Where does he work and live?
- 16 What is the British Government like?
- 17 Where does the Government work?
- 18 What countries make up the UK?
- 19 What London landmarks do you know?
- 20 What are the capitals of Scotland,

## 21 Label the map of the British Isles



The British Isles

next

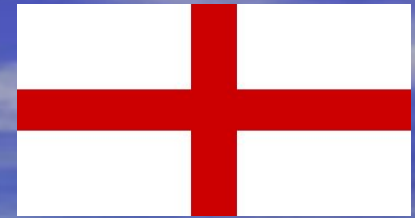
# TOGETHER THEY ALL MAKE THE UK FLAG



**St Patrick's cross**  
Northern Ireland's old  
flag



**St Andrew's  
cross**  
Scotland's Flag



**St Georges  
cross**  
England's Flag

## Why doesn't the Welsh dragon appear on the Union Flag?

The Welsh dragon does not appear on the flag because when the first Union Flag was created in 1606, Wales was already united with England from the 13th century.



The Union Jack is the only *official* flag of Northern Ireland. The well known red hand flag of Northern Ireland. The well known red hand flag has not been used officially since 1973.

*Dean McGee, 27 January 2002*



<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk>  
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.htm>

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/Home.aspx>

<http://www.parliament.uk>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Her\\_Majesty%27s\\_Government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Her_Majesty%27s_Government)