

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NOTHERN IRELAND

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General location

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is situated on the **British Isles** laying off the north-western coast of Europe and separated from the continent by the **English Channel** and the **Strait of Dover** in the south and the North Sea in the east.

They occupy the total area of 244000 square km.

The British Isles consist of 2 large islands – **Great Britain** and **Ireland**, and a lot of small islands, the main of which are the **Isle of Wight**, **Anglesey**, the **Isle of Scilly**, the **Isle of Man**, the **Hebrides**, the **Orkney Islands** and the **Shetland Islands**.

There are also two big peninsulars: **Wales** and **Cornwall**.



Relief

The relief of the country is represented by 2 main regions – Lowland Britain and Highland Britain.

Highland Britain comprises all those mountain parts and uplands of Great Britain which lie above 305 m.

Geologically these mountains are among the oldest in the world, more than 3500 million years old.

Mountains



Ben Nevis



The Cheviot Hills



The Grampian Mountains



The Cambrian Mountains

Climate

The British climate is often unjustly criticized. In fact, it is very good

- no extremes of heat or cold,
- enough rainfall disturbed throughout the year,
- no typhoons or hurricanes that may destroy the crops.

The rains are brought on to the British Isles by the winds that blow off the warm current called **Gulf Stream**, which flows from the coasts of America across **the Atlantic Ocean** to bring warm weather to Britain.

These winds keep Britain warm in winter and cool in summer. The Gulf Stream is the main source of the mildness of the British climate.

Very seldom a hard winter may keep snow on the ground for some weeks. But then a thaw comes and the snow begins to melt away.

Vegetation

With its mild climate and varied soils, Britain has rich natural vegetation.

The British Isles were originally covered with forests, mainly **oak** and **beech** in Lowland Britain and **pine** and **birch** in Highlands, with great stretches of **moorland**.

The great density of woodland occurs in the north and east of Scotland, in some parts of south-east England and on the Welsh border.

Today the most common trees are oak, beech, ash and elm, and in Scotland also pine and birch.

The mild climate of Great Britain is favorable for plants and flowers. Some of them have become national symbols of the UK.

In the meadowlands wild flowers grow, from common daisies to rare lilies.

By the waterside there are white and yellow water lilies, blue forget-me-nots, purple and yellow irises.



- *The red rose* is a symbol of England,
- *The thistle* is a symbol of Scotland,
- *The daffodil and the leek* is a symbol of Wales,
- *The shamrock* is a symbol of Northern Ireland

Fauna

The animal life of the UK is much like the rest of northwestern Europe. Many larger animals like bear and wolf are rare, but there are many foxes and red deer.

Of smaller animals there are mice, rats, hedgehogs, moles, squirrels, hares, rabbits and weasels.

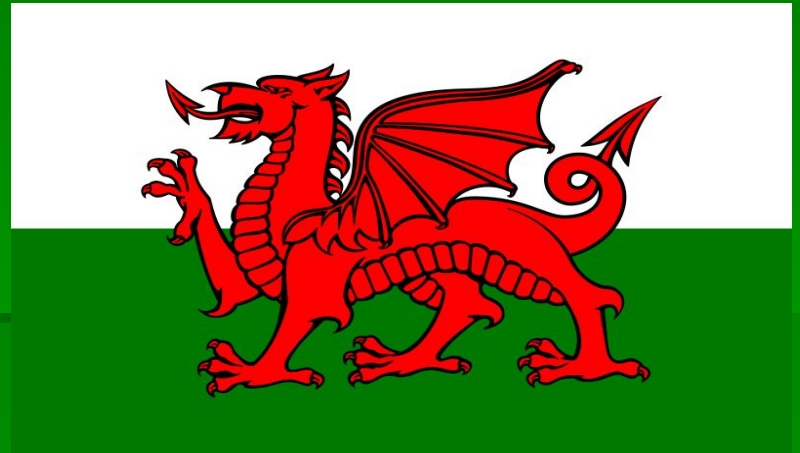
There are a lot of birds, including many song-birds.

Blackbirds, sparrows and starlings are probably most common.

Robin Redbreast is another national emblem of Great Britain. Gulls, geese and other sea birds nest near the coast. Swans, pheasants and other large and rare birds are protected by law.



The flag of Scotland



The flag of Wales



The flag of England



The flag of Northern Ireland





















“Tesco” is the name of the well-known supermarket in England. Look at Tesco's prices and say Mary, Andy, Tim and May can buy with the money they have. And you?

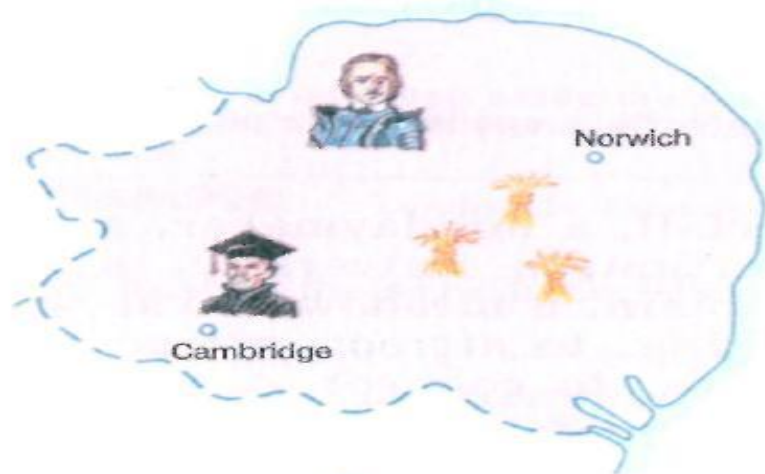
EXAMPLE:

With £5 and 90p I've got 1 can buy 100 g of Nescafé' coffee, one lb (pound) of English Cox's apples, 1 kg (kilo) of chicken and 2 kg (kilos) of red potatoes.

CHICKEN.....	£2.99 per 1 kg ²
RED POTATOES.....	£0.75 per 2 kg
NESCAFÉ COFFEE.....	£1.69 per 100 g ³
CORNFLAKES.....	99p per 750 g ⁴
COKE.....	£1.19 for 2 l ⁵
ENGLISH COX'S APPLES.....	38p per 1 lb ⁵
CABBAGES.....	39p each
PORK SAUSAGES.....	£1.29 per 454 g
APPLE PIE.....	£1.20 each
FRUIT YOGURT.....	20p for a carton
BREAD.....	78p for a loaf

Mary has got £5
Andy has got £20
Tim has got £1.50
May has got £2.30
You have got...

1 Look at the pictures. Say what parts of England they show and describe these areas.



What a warm day!

What a strong wind!

What a beautiful river!

What a lovely hedge!

What an old university!

What nice scenery!

What cold water!

What nasty weather!

What deep knowledge!

What short hair!

What dangerous pirates!

What long roads!

What exciting stories!

What tasty potatoes!

What attractive faces!