

I. Pre-reading task.

1. Look at the photograph and discuss the questions:



1. What country / city do you think the photograph is from?
2. What do you know about this country?

1.1. Geographical position

The United Kingdom, officially the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland but more commonly known as the UK or Britain, is a sovereign country lying off the north-western coast of the European mainland. The United Kingdom includes the island of Great Britain, the north-eastern part of the island of Ireland and many smaller islands. Northern Ireland is the only part of the United Kingdom that shares a land border with another sovereign state—the Republic of Ireland. Apart from this land border, the United Kingdom is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, with the North Sea to the east, the English Channel to the south and the Celtic Sea to the south-west, giving it the 12th-longest coastline in the world. The Irish Sea lies between Great Britain and Ireland. With an area of 242,500 square kilometers, the United Kingdom is the 78th-largest sovereign state in the world. It is also the 21st-most populous country, with an estimated 68.4 million inhabitants in 2022.

Great Britain lies on the European continental shelf, part of the Eurasian Plate. Situated off the north-west coast of continental Europe, it is separated from the mainland by the North Sea and by the English Channel, which narrows to 34 km at the Straits of Dover.

The territory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is historically divided into four parts:

- 1) England;
- 2) Scotland;
- 3) Wales;
- 4) Northern Ireland



England borders on Scotland in the north. In the east it is washed by the North Sea. In the south it is separated from the continent by the English Channel. In the west it borders on Wales and is washed by the Bristol Channel and by the Irish Sea.

Scotland is the most northern of the countries that constitute the United Kingdom. It occupies an area of 78,8 thousand sq. km. Scotland is washed by the Atlantic Ocean in the north and west and by the North Sea in the east.

Wales is washed by the sea on three sides: the Bristol Channel in the south, the St. George's Channel in the west, and the Irish Sea in the north. Its territory is 20,8 thousand sq. km.

Northern Ireland occupies the north-eastern part of Ireland, which is separated from the island of Great Britain by the North Channel. In the south-west Northern Ireland borders on the Irish Republic.

1.2. Population

The United Kingdom's 2022 population is 68.4 million according to the most recent UN estimates. Each year in June, the Office for National Statistics releases an updated estimate based on migration and fertility statistics. The last full UK census was carried out in 2011, showing a population of 63,181,775, up from 2001's census figure of 58,789,194. The UK

is the world's 21st largest country by population. The United Kingdom is currently growing at a rate of 0.6% per year.



The United Kingdom includes four nations, England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. Each nation has their own major cities that contribute to the population and demographics of the United Kingdom. London is the capital of the country, with 9,540,576 living within its boundaries. Glasgow in Scotland has a population of 1,688,907. Based on data from the last Census taken in 2011, the majority of the UK's population is situated in England, which accounts for just under 84% of the total population. Scotland trails behind with 8.4% of the population, followed by Wales at 4.8%, and Northern Island at 2.9%. The UK has a high literacy rate of over 99% among residents aged 15 and older. This is attributed to the universal public education provided to UK residents, both in primary and secondary schools. The most used languages in the United Kingdom are the English, Polish, and Welsh languages.

The total fertility rate of the United Kingdom is 1.92 children per woman, according to data from 2012. The number of children born to foreign-born mothers has increased to encompass over one-quarter of the total population, and statistics from 2014 show that the fertility of foreign-born women living in the UK is higher than native women of child-bearing age.

49% of the UK population is irreligious (or has no particular affiliation with any religion), 17% is affiliated with an Anglican Christian, 17% with a non-Anglican Christian faith, 8% Roman Catholic, 5% Islamic, and 4% other beliefs. An interesting side-note of religion and the UK is that only Protestants may gain the crown of king or queen, and those

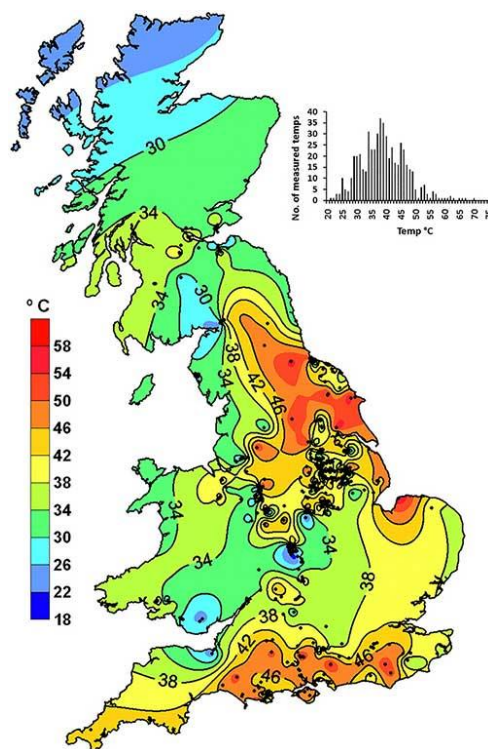
eligible for the crown have only recently been allowed to marry those of the Catholic faith without losing their eligibility.

The United Kingdom's population is expected to continue its rise throughout the 21st century. Driven by modest natural increase and positive net immigration, the population will reach 77 million by 2050, according to the ONS projections. The UN projections for 2050 are slightly lower at 75 million.

1.3.The climate

The climate in Great Britain is generally mild and temperate due to the influence of the Gulf Stream. The south-western winds carry the warmth and moisture into Britain. The climate in Britain is usually described as cool, temperate and humid. The climate in Britain is generally mild and temperate due to the influence of the Gulf Stream - a warm sea current flowing from the Gulf of Mexico to western Europe. The characteristic features are not very hot summers, mild winters, frequent changes in weather, but few extremes of temperature, abundant rain all the year round (but on average, March to June are the driest months, September to January the wettest). More than one half of the days are overcast. Britain's weather is influenced by westerly winds blowing from the Atlantic, mild in winter, cool in summer, bringing rain and fog. Occasional easterly winds in winter may bring a cold, dry, continental-type of weather. It seldom snows heavily in winter.

Rainfall is more or less even throughout the year. In the mountains, there is heavier rainfall than in the plains of the south and east. The driest period is from March to June and the wettest months are from October to January. The average range of temperature (from winter to summer) is from 15 to 23 degrees above zero. During a normal summer the temperature sometimes rises above 30 degrees in the south. Winter temperatures below 10 degrees are rare. It seldom snows heavily in winter, the frost is rare. January and February are usually the coldest months,



July and August the warmest. Still the wind may bring winter cold in spring or summer days. Sometimes it brings the whirlwinds or hurricanes. Droughts are rare.

1.4. Flora and fauna

Animal diversity is modest, as a result of factors including the island's small land area, the relatively recent age of the habitats developed since the last glacial period and the island's physical separation from continental Europe, and the effects of seasonal variability. Great Britain also experienced early industrialization and is subject to continuing urbanization, which have contributed towards the overall loss of species. A DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) study from 2006 suggested that 100 species have become extinct in the UK during the 20th century, about 100 times the background extinction rate. However, some species, such as the brown rat, red fox, and introduced grey squirrel, are well adapted to urban areas.

Rodents make up 40% of the mammal species. These include squirrels, mice, voles, rats and the recently reintroduced European beaver. There is a wealth of birdlife, with 618 species recorded, of which 258 breed on the island or remain during winter. Because of its mild winters for its latitude, Great Britain hosts important numbers of many wintering species, particularly waders, ducks, geese and swans. Other well-known bird species include the golden eagle, grey heron, common kingfisher, common wood pigeon, house sparrow, European robin, grey partridge, and various species of crow, finch, gull, auk, grouse, owl and falcon. There are six species of reptile on the island; three snakes and three lizards including the legless slowworm. One snake, the adder, is venomous but rarely deadly. Amphibians present are frogs, toads and newts. There are also several introduced species of reptile and amphibian.

In a similar sense to fauna, and for similar reasons, the flora is impoverished compared to that of continental Europe. The flora comprises 3,354 vascular plant species, of which 2,297 are native and 1,057 have been introduced. The island has a wide variety of trees, including native species of birch, beech, ash, hawthorn, elm, oak, yew, pine, cherry and apple. Other trees have been naturalized, introduced especially from other parts of Europe (particularly Norway) and North America. Introduced trees include several varieties of pine, chestnut, maple, spruce, sycamore and fir, as well as cherry plum and pear trees. The

tallest species are the Douglas firs; two specimens have been recorded measuring 65 metres or 212 feet. The Fortingall Yew in Perthshire is the oldest tree in Europe.

There are at least 1,500 different species of wildflower. Some 107 species are particularly rare or vulnerable and are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

1.5.Rivers and lakes

Britain is well-provided with rivers. Most of the longest rivers flow eastwards because the west of the country is mountainous. Only few of the rivers are navigable far inland (e.g. the Thames as far as the City of London; the Severn; the Trent), but numerous canals enable inland traffic. The Manchester Ship Canal, connecting Manchester with Liverpool, was the first to be built (1894).

In northern Scotland, the Caledonian Canal connects a series of lakes with the North Sea and the Atlantic, the tides of the sea and the ocean raise the level of water in the estuaries and enable even ocean-going ships to enter ports at some distance from the coast.

The Shannon in the Irish Republic (240 miles) is the longest river in the British Isles.

Lakes are to be found:

1) in the Lake District, a popular tourist centre in north-west England, including the largest natural lake in England - Lake Windermere, and one of the most beautiful lakes - Lake Derwent water (called the "Queen of Lakes").

2) in Scotland, where they are called "lochs" - Loch Lomond, the largest lake in Great Britain, north-west of Glasgow; Loch Ness, world-famous for its "Loch Ness Monster", a very deep lake, in places over 700 feet (213 m), in northern Scotland, where it forms part of the Caledonian Canal; Loch Morar in the Scottish Highlands, the deepest lake (310 m); and many others.

3) in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, where they are called "loughs" - Lough Neagh, the largest lake in the British Isles (about 380 sq. km) is situated in Northern Ireland, west of Belfast.



II. Post - reading task.

1. Read the text and answer the questions?

1. Where is the UK situated?
2. How many countries does the UK consist of?
3. When was the Channel Tunnel completed?
4. When was the English Channel created?
5. What does influence on climate of Great Britain?
6. How many species have become extinct in the UK during 20th century?
7. What are the largest land-based wild animals in Great Britain?

2. Match statements (1-7) with their endings (a-g).

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|--|--|
| 1. The United Kingdom's 2022 population | 5. The climate in Britain is usually |
| 2. The most used languages in the United Kingdom are | 6. January and February are usually the coldest months |
| 3. Britain is | a. the longest river in the British Isles. |
| 4. The Shannon in the Irish Republic (240 miles) is | |

- b. July and August the warmest.
- c. the English, Polish, and Welsh languages.
- d. is 68.4 million according to the most recent UN estimates.
- e. described as cool, temperate and humid.
- f. well-provided with rivers.

Answers:1.D

2.C

3. F

4.A

5.E

6.B

3. Identify whether the statement is True (statement agrees with the passage) or False (statement contradicts the passage)

1. Southern Ireland is the substituent part of the UK. (F)
2. Youth show the highest literacy rate of more than 99 %. (T)
3. The most northern area in the UK is Wales. (F)
4. It always snows heavily in winter in the UK. (F)
5. The UK consists of 3 main parts, excluding Northern Ireland. (F)

4.Fill in the gaps

Full, mountainous, enable, tides, coast

Great Britain is _____ with rivers. Most of the longest rivers flow eastwards because the west of the country is _____. Only few of the rivers are navigable far inland (e.g. the Thames as far as the City of London; the Severn; the Trent), but numerous canals _____ inland traffic. The Manchester Ship Canal, connecting Manchester with Liverpool, was the first to be built (1894).

In northern Scotland, the Caledonian Canal connects a series of lakes with the North Sea and the Atlantic, The _____ of the sea and the ocean raise the level of water in the estuaries and enable even ocean-going ships to enter ports at some distance from the _____.

5. Watch the video and answer the questions:

<https://youtu.be/4xJAOA-EROo>

1. What is the difference between the UK and Great Britain?
2. What are the British Isles?
3. What are the Crown dependencies?

III. Task for self – study

1. <https://media.istockphoto.com/vectors/united-kingdom-map-outline-graphic-freehand-drawing-on-white-vector-vector-id916188630?k=20&m=916188630&s=612x612&w=0&h=23WgG>

**X9MRDOu9vgbKARpANTQbyvIxxVuMN1qOVGJA40= print
the map of the UK and fill it out.**

- 2. Find the most interesting 10 facts about the UK and make the presentation.**

References:

1. Yakubov I. English speaking countries. Tashkent, 2004.
2. Bakirova X. B, Xakimov X.I. Country Studies. Toshkent 2016.