Great Britain, also known as Britain /ˈbrɪ.tən/, is an island in the North Atlantic off the north-west coast of continental Europe. With an area of 229,848 km2 ,745 sq mi), it is the largest island of the British Isles, thelargest island in Europe and the ninth-largest in the world.[5][6] In 2011 the island had a population of about 61 million pple, making it the third-most populous island in the world, after Java in Indonesia and Honshū in Japan.[7][8] It is surrounded by over 1,000 smaller islands.[9] The island of Ireland lies to its west.

The island is part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, constituting most of its territory:[10] most of England, Scotland, and Wales are on the island, with their respective capital cities, London,Edinburgh, and Cardiff. Politically, the term Great Britain usually extends to include surrounding islands that form part of England, Scotland, and Wales.211]