

The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is a group of four countries – England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland – between the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea. The number of people in the UK is 66.7 million and the capital city, London, is 2000 years old. Today it is the home of 9.3 million people.

NORTHERN IRELAND

There are two parts of Ireland: the northern part is in the UK. Northern Ireland is only about 25 km from Scotland by boat. The people speak English, but 4% of people can speak the old language – Irish or Gaelic. There is rain in Northern Ireland for about 200 days a year, so the country is very green and there are many sheep and cows.



WALES

The capital of Wales is Cardiff. In this country people speak English, but 25% also speak Welsh, a language that is about 3000 years old. People from Wales like singing and playing rugby. There are many mountains, castles and sheep in Wales and also a small town with a very long name: *LLANFAIRPWLLGWYNGYLLGOGERYCHWYRNDROBWYLLLLANTTYSILIOGOGOGOCH*.



ENGLAND

England is a very green country with many hills, forests, parks, gardens and old town to see. The country has a long history: Stonehenge is about 4500 years old! Many tourists go to England in a year and 20 million go to London. England is famous for rain: in the words of George II in 1720, "The English summer is three day with no rain and one day with a storm."



Scotland

Scotland is a part of the UK where there are a lot of hills, mountains and about 800 islands with beautiful beaches. There aren't many people in Scotland, but there is a very big monster in Loch Ness... The capital city is Edinburgh, home to the world's biggest arts festival with street music, theatre and dancing.



1. Write T (true) or F (false)

- a) Northern Ireland is very far from Scotland.
- b) In Wales everybody speaks two languages.
- c) England isn't a young country.
- d) Millions of tourists visit London every year.
- e) There aren't many islands in Scotland.

2. Answer the questions

- a) How many countries does the UK consist of?
- b) What is the capital of the UK?
- c) What is the nearest country to Northern Ireland?
- d) How many languages do they speak in Northern Ireland?
- e) Why is Northern Ireland a green country?
- f) What is the capital of Wales?
- g) What can you see in Wales?
- h) What is the capital of England?
- i) What is England famous for?
- j) What is the capital of Scotland?
- k) Are there any beaches in Scotland?
- l) What is Loch Ness?

