



The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1) Read the text and fill in the missing sentences.

- A The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland consists of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- B People in Scotland play very unusual musical instruments called bagpipes.
- C Green is one of the symbols of Ireland and everybody wears green on St. Patrick's Day (17 March), the Irish national holiday.
- D Elizabeth II is now the Queen of Great Britain.
- E Everyone who was born in Britain is British.
- F The Welsh are especially proud of their language.
- G The English are also famous for their love of animals.
- H Rugby is their national sport.



For a thousand of years the United Kingdom has been united under one sovereign, a king or a queen. **1** _____. She is married to Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh. The Queen has four children: Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward. Prince Charles is next in line to the British Crown. The Royal Family lives in Buckingham Palace – a very beautiful building in the centre of London.



2 _____. The capital of England is London. The capital of Scotland is Edinburgh. The capital of Wales is Cardiff. The capital of Northern Ireland is Belfast.



Every country in the UK has got its own symbol. The symbol of England is a red rose, and English people are crazy about gardening. **3** _____. A lot of families have pets. English football is famous, of course, but there is another national sport too, cricket. English people like to talk about the weather. 23 April is Saint George's Day – England's national day.



Scotland is very famous for its beautiful scenery and the lake called Loch Ness. An important symbol of Scotland is a special kind of material called tartan. Another Scottish symbol is the thistle. **4** _____. Traditional tartan skirts are called kilts and many Scots wear them – women and men! St Andrew's Day is celebrated in Scotland on 30 November, in honour of St Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland.



A red dragon is probably the oldest symbol of Wales. Another symbol of Wales is a vegetable called the leek. People wear them on their coats on St. David's Day (1 March), the Welsh national holiday, although some people wear another symbol of Wales – the daffodil. Welsh people are famous for their singing and their musical festivals. **5** _____.

The most famous symbol of Ireland is the shamrock. In Ireland you may see different shades and tones of green. 6 _____. The Irish are famous for their playing, singing and dancing.



People in Britain are reserved and conservative. They have kept their traditions alive for centuries. 7 _____. People from England are the English. People from Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland are not English. They are the Scottish or the Scots; the Welsh and the Irish. People from Scotland and Wales don't like it when they are called the English.

Everyone in Britain speaks English. But in some parts of Scotland and Wales people speak different languages as well – Gaelic and Welsh. 8 _____. People in Wales like to speak Welsh, to sing songs in Welsh and when you travel you can see road signs in Welsh all over Wales. The Irish speak Irish too. Everyone in the UK speaks English but they all speak it differently.



2) Match the country with its symbols.

England

shamrock, green colour

Wales

leek, daffodil, red dragon, rugby

Scotland

red rose, football, pets

Northern Ireland

tartan, kilt, bagpipe, thistle

3) Match the beginning of each sentence with its ending. There are two extra ones.

1. The royal family lives
2. The English people are fond of
3. The nature is very beautiful
4. Traditional kilts are worn
5. If you like music festivals
6. St Patrick's Day
7. The Scots don't like
8. The road signs in Wales

- a) is Queen Elizabeth, Prince Phillip and their children.
- b) in Scotland.
- c) in the centre of London.
- d) you should visit Wales.
- e) animals and gardening.
- f) by men and women.
- g) is celebrated on 30 November.
- h) to be called English.
- i) is a national day in Ireland.
- j) are in English and Welsh.



4) A. Say what the underlined words refer to in the article.

1) She _____

2) There _____

3) Them _____

4) Their _____

5) It _____