

About Britain

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1. Read the text and match the paragraphs to the headings.

1.



First of all, what is the name of the country – Great Britain or the UK? Great Britain is made up of the countries of England, Scotland and Wales. The United Kingdom consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. So, Great Britain is only one part of the UK. Northern Ireland is the other part.

Read the text again and answer the question.

What is the difference between Great Britain and the United Kingdom?

2.



Britain is an island and is located in northern Europe. It borders the Atlantic Ocean, the Irish Sea, the North Sea and the English Channel. Northern Ireland borders with Ireland (the Republic of

Ireland). The countries on the Continent nearest to Great Britain are Belgium, the Netherlands and France. The total population of the UK is about 65 million. England's population is the biggest – 55 million. London is the capital of the United Kingdom and its largest city. About 8.7 million people live there. The other three largest cities in Britain are: Birmingham, Leeds and Glasgow.

Read the text again and answer the question.

How many seas border Britain?

3.



Like every country, Britain has got a long history. It was invaded by the Romans in 43 AD. Then the Anglo-Saxons came in about 450 AD from Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark. The next invaders were the Vikings, who first invaded Britain in 793. Then the Normans from Normandy (a region in the north of France) invaded the island in 1066. Over the years, Britain turned into a strong country and in the 16th century became the British Empire. Until the 18th century, the British Empire constantly expanded. Britain has

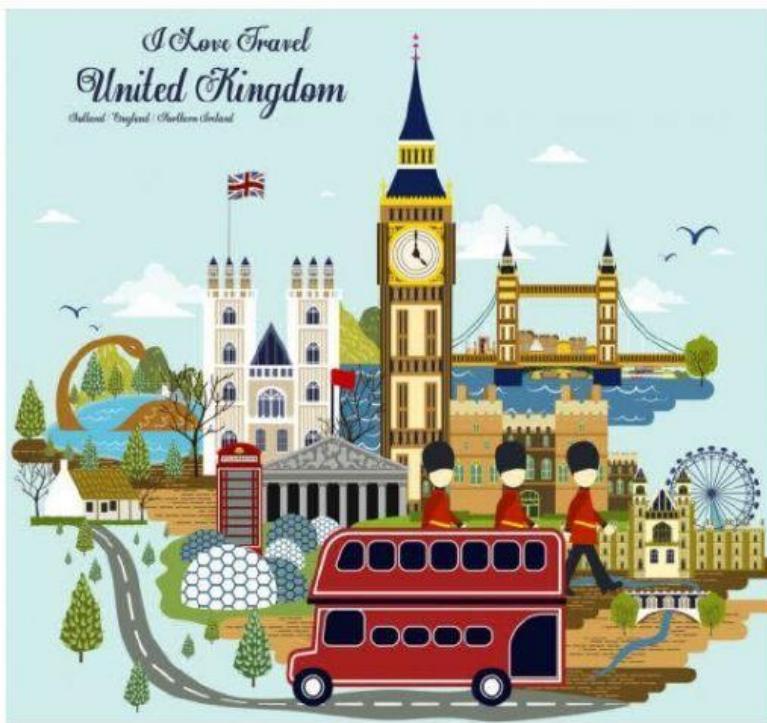
been a monarchy for centuries. Queen Elizabeth II became Queen of England in 1952. Nowadays, the Royal Family is a symbol of British culture, traditions and rich history.

Read the text again and answer the questions.

Where were the Anglo-Saxons from?

Who invaded Britain in 1066?

4. —



Britain has got a lot of famous people who are known all over the world. For example, some of the most progressive scientists, like Sir Isaac Newton or Charles Darwin were from Britain, as was one of the world's best-known playwrights – William Shakespeare. Everybody knows the name of Winston Churchill,

former Prime Minister and one of Britain's most influential politicians. Britain is known for its weather, because it's mostly wet, and its tradition of drinking tea at 5 o'clock. Popular symbols of the country are the red double-decker buses and telephone boxes in London as well as the wild countryside of Scotland. Some English football clubs such as Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea are known all over the world. If you travel to London, make sure you will see a lot of well-known sights, such as Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, the Tower of London, the London Eye and Buckingham Palace. Also, try to see Stonehenge, a prehistoric ring of standing stones, or go to Loch Ness in Scotland. Who knows, maybe you will catch a glimpse of the Loch Ness Monster?

Read the text again and answer the questions.

Which former Prime Minister is one of Britain's most famous people?

What is the weather usually like in Britain?

What kind of transport is London famous for?