

## The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom (UK) is a state located on the British Isles in the \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean, northwest of continental Europe. It is part of Europe but separated from France by the \_\_\_\_\_. The UK consists of \_\_\_\_\_ countries, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Great Britain is the largest of the British Isles (1,000km long, 480km wide). Apart from it, the UK occupies part of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Ireland and numerous other small islands. The north and north-west of the country are more \_\_\_\_\_, while the south and east have softer rolling hills and flat \_\_\_\_\_. The longest river is the River \_\_\_\_\_, flowing through Wales and England, followed by the River \_\_\_\_\_. The mild climate means that there are no real weather extremes. The UK is a very populated country with over 60 million people. The \_\_\_\_\_ language spoken is English, but there are lots of regional dialects (accents) across the country. Gaelic is spoken in some areas of Scotland, and \_\_\_\_\_ is the second language spoken in Wales. The UK is a \_\_\_\_\_ and has a parliamentary democracy, but the country is also ruled by a monarch (the head of the \_\_\_\_\_ family), currently King \_\_\_\_\_. The major political parties are the Conservative Party (right wing) and the Labour Party (left wing). \_\_\_\_\_ is the capital and the biggest city. Other main cities are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The UK has a lot of history. One of its oldest monuments is \_\_\_\_\_, a circle of stones which is 5,000 years old. The oldest human remains, found in Cheddar Gorge, are 9,000 years old. Other famous places include the Scottish Highlands with \_\_\_\_\_, the UK's highest mountain (1,344 m), and Loch \_\_\_\_\_ in Scotland, the basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland, the university towns of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_-upon-\_\_\_\_\_, where Shakespeare was born, and of course London.

mountainous

Four

Severn

England

island

Atlantic

lands

Scotland

English Channel

Wales

Thames

Manchester

main

Ben Nevis

Charles III.

Welsh

Avon

Northern Ireland

royal

Cambridge

Stonehenge

Leeds

Edinburgh

Birmingham

Glasgow

Ness

Newcastle

Cardiff

Liverpool

constitutional monarchy

Oxford

Stratford

London