A PLACE OF MANY LANGUAGES

1. Read and translate the text.

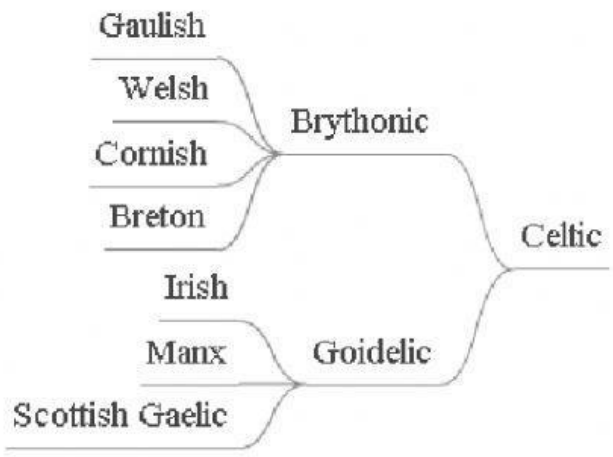
Almost everybody in the British Isles speaks English but **it's not the only language**. If you go to Wales you will see television programmes, notices and road signs in **Welsh** and hear people speaking it. About 600,000 people speak Welsh there. In Scotland, some people speak **Gaelic**, especially in the Highlands, and in Ireland, Gaelic or 'Erse' is sometimes used: about 500,000 people in Ireland speak Gaelic every day. The people are proud of their national languages, which all come from **the Celtic language**. They are very different from English. For example: 'How are you?' is 'Shwmae' in Welsh and 'Ciamar a tha thu?' in Gaelic.

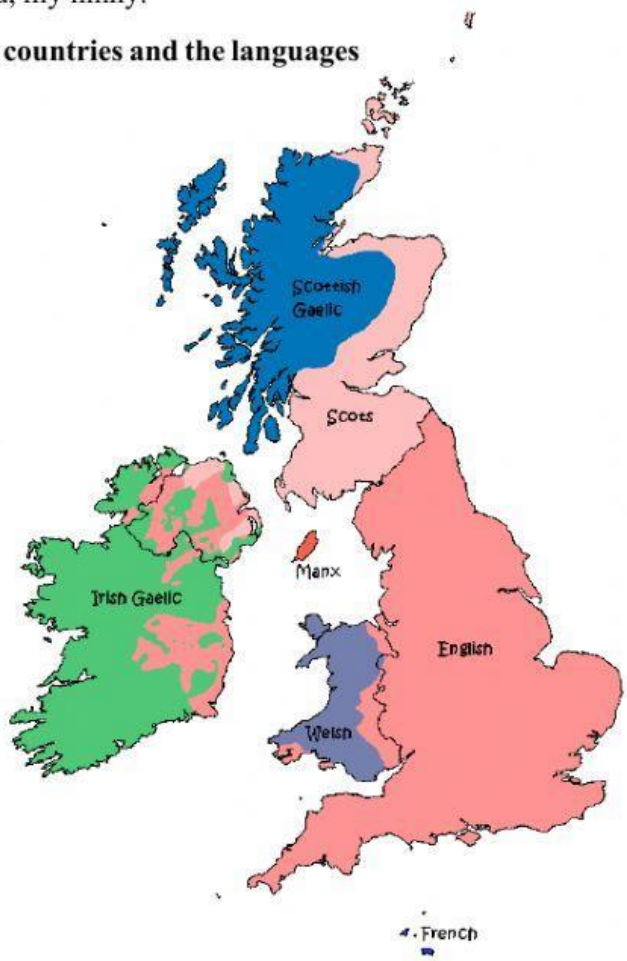
'Wales' is 'Cymru' in Welsh and 'Scotland' is 'Alba' in **Gaelic.** There are other languages which very few people speak. In Cornwall, in the south-west of England, only a few hundred people speak **Cornish**. On the Isle of Man, an ancient language known as **Manx** is used on special occasions.

You will hear lots of other languages, especially in big cities. People who have come to the British Isles from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh may speak **Hindi, Punjabi or Bengali**, for example.

As well as different languages, you will hear many different accents and dialects. People in Liverpool have a different accent from people in Birmingham, Leeds, Glasgow, Cardiff, London or Manchester, which is near Liverpool. In Newcastle, in the northeast of England, there is a dialect known as **'Geordie'**. It has several special words: if the people want to call Someone 'darling' or 'honey', they use the word 'hinny': "I love you, my hinny."

2. Look at the map of the UK. Name the countries and the languages which people are used to speak.





Cockney Rhyming Slang

Rhyming slang is believed to have originated in the mid-19th century in the East End of London, with sources suggesting some time in the 1840s. It dates from around 1840 among the predominantly Cockney population of the East End of London who are well-known for having a characteristic accent and speech patterns.

3. **Try to guess the meaning of the Cockney slang words. Writhe it down.**

Rhyming slang	Meaning	Example
Adam and Eve		Would you Adam and Eve it?
Alligator		See you alligator.
Apples and Pears		Get up those apples to bed!
Bacon and Eggs		She has such long bacons.
Barnet Fair		I'm going to have my barnet cut.
Bees and Honey		Hand over the bees.
Butcher's Hook		I had a butchers at it through the window.
Crust of Bread		Use your crust, lad.
Daffadown Dilly		She's a bit daffy.
Loaf of Bread		Think about it; use your loaf.
Mince Pies		What beautiful minces.
Oxford Scholar		Could you lend me an Oxford?
Rabbit and Pork		I don't know what she's rabbiting about.
Scarpa Flow		Scarpa! The police are coming!
Trouble and Strife		The trouble's been shopping again.
Uncle Bert		I'm ironing my Uncle.
Weasel and Stoat		Where's my weasel?