



An Introduction to the United Kingdom

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The map displays the railway network of China, with numerous lines connecting major cities and regions. Key cities labeled include Beijing, Shanghai, and others. The map also shows the surrounding seas and rivers. A small inset image in the top left corner shows a large railway bridge structure.



respectively. The Channel Island bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey, and the Isle of Man are Crown Dependencies, which means they are constitutionally tied to the British monarch but are not part of the UK. The UK has fourteen overseas territories, all **remnants** of the British Empire, which at its height in 1922 **encompassed** almost a quarter of the world's land surface, the largest empire in history. British influence can still be observed in the language, culture and legal systems of many of its former colonies.

[illegible]

ii Key words

- [illegible]

i English Motto

Today is the first day of the rest of your life.

1/ñlîêÇÄãóàÉµÄµÙò»lî;£

Today is my first day at a new job.

1/nèlîÊÇîÒÐÂ¹α÷µÄµÙ>Ìì;£

Today is your first day of a new life.

1/nèlêÇÄãÐÂÉú»îüÄüÔ»lè;£

aa
□ Anonymous



[illegible]

The physical geography of the UK **varies** greatly. The Geography of England **consists of** lowland **terrain**, with mountainous terrain north-west of the Tees-Exe line including the Cumbrian Mountains of the Lake District, the Pennines and limestone hills of the Peak District, Exmoor and Dartmoor. The Geography of Scotland **is distinguished by** the Highland Boundary Fault – a geological **rock fracture** – which traverses the Scottish mainland from

The overall **geomorphology** of the UK was shaped by the combined forces of **tectonics** and climate change, in particular **glaciations**.



The exact centre of the island of Great Britain is disputed. Depending upon how it is calculated it can be either Halt whistle in Northumberland, or Dunlop Bridge in Lancashire.

The **geology** of the United Kingdom is varied and **diverse**. This gives up to the wide variety of landscapes found across the UK. This variety, coupled with the early efforts of UK based scientists and geologists to understand it, has influenced the naming of many geological concepts, including many of the geological periods (for example, the Ordovician period is named after the Ordovices, a people of early Britain; the Devonian in south-west England).

[illegible]

i Key words

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. approximately 1. 大约 2. 大概 | 2. vary 1. 变化 2. 不同 |
| 3. consist of 1. 由...组成 2. 包括 | 3. terrain 1. 地形 2. 地势 |
| 4. be distinguished by 1. 以...为特征 2. 区别于 | 4. rock fracture 1. 岩石破裂 2. 岩层断裂 |
| 5. geomorphology 1. 地貌学 2. 地形学 | 5. tectonics 1. 地质构造 2. 构造地质学 |
| 6. glaciation 1. 冰川作用 2. 冰川期 | 6. geology 1. 地质学 2. 地质 |
| 7. diverse 1. 多样的 2. 不同的 | |



The river has supported human activity from its source to its mouth for thousands of years providing **habitation**, water power, food and drink. It has also acted as a major highway both for international trade through the Port of London, and internally along its length and connecting to the British **canal** system. The river's strategic position has seen it at the centre of many events and fashions in British history, earning it a description by John Burns as "Liquid History". It has been a physical and political boundary over the centuries and generated a range of river crossings. In more recent time the river has become a major leisure area supporting tourism and pleasure outings as well as the sports of rowing, sailing, skiffing, kayaking, and punting.



The river has had a special **appeal to** writers, artists, musicians and film-makers and is well represented in the arts. It is still the subject of various debates about its course, nomenclature and history.

Severn River

The River Severn is the longest river in Great Britain, at about 354 kilometres. It rises at an altitude of 610 metres on Plynlimon near Llanidloes, Powys, in the Cambrian Mountains of mid Wales. It then flows through Shropshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, with the county towns of Shrewsbury, Worcester, and Gloucester on its banks. With an average **discharge** of 107 m³/s at Apperley, Gloucestershire, the Severn is England's greatest river **in terms of** water flow.

The river is usually considered to become the Severn Estuary after the Second Severn Crossing between Severn Beach, South Gloucestershire and Sudbrook, Monmouthshire. The river then discharges into the Bristol Channel which in turn discharges into the Celtic Sea and the wider Atlantic Ocean. The Severn's drainage basin area is 11,420 square kilometres, excluding the River Wye and Bristol Avon which flow into the Bristol Channel. The major tributaries to the Severn are the Vyrnwy, Teme, Warwickshire Avon and Stour.

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Key words

- tidal
- catchment
- tributary
- habitation
- canal
- appeal to
- discharge
- in terms of





The Atlantic Ocean has a significant effect on Britain's climate. Although the British Isles are as far north in latitude as Labrador in Canada, they have a mild climate throughout the



year. This is due to the Gulf Stream, a current of warm water that flows up from the Caribbean past Britain. Prevailing southwesterly winds moving across this warmer water bring moisture and moderating temperatures to the British Isles. The surrounding waters moderate temperatures year-round, making the UK warmer in winter and cooler in summer than other areas at the same latitude. Great Britain's western coast tends to be warmer than the eastern coast, and the southern regions tend to be warmer than the northern regions. The mean annual temperature in the far north of Scotland is 6°C (43°F), and in warmer southwestern England it is 11°C (52°F). In general, temperatures are ordinarily around 15°C (60°F) in the summer and around 5°C (40°F) in the winter. Temperatures rarely ever exceed 32°C (90°F) or drop below -10°C (14°F) anywhere in the British Isles. In general, **frosts**, when the temperature dips below 0°C (32°F), are rare.

Winds blowing off the Atlantic Ocean bring clouds and large amounts of moisture to the British Isles. Average annual **precipitation** is more than 1000 mm (40 in), varying from the extremes of 5000 mm (196 in) in the western Highlands of Scotland to less than 500 mm (20 in) in the driest parts of East Anglia in England. The western part of Britain receives much more moisture than the eastern areas. It rains year-round, and in the winter the rain may change to snow, particularly in the north. It snows infrequently in the south, and when it







5. Resources

The UK has a variety of natural resources including: Geological: coal, petroleum, natural gas, **limestone**, chalk, gypsum, **silica**, rock salt, china clay, iron ore, tin, silver, gold, lead. Agricultural: **arable land**, wheat, sheep. The UK has large coal, natural gas, and oil reserves; primary energy production accounts for 10% of GDP, one of the highest shares of any industrial nation. Due to the island location of the UK, the country has great potential for generating electricity from wave power and tidal power, although these have not yet been exploited on a commercial basis.



Soils

Britain's soil quality varies greatly. In northern areas the soils are thin, lying right above rock formations, while the south possesses areas of rich **loam** and heavy clay soils. When handled carefully the soils of eastern and south central England are very productive. While 77 percent of the land in Britain is used for agriculture, only 25 percent of this land is used to grow crops. Almost all of the rest is used as grazing land.

Forests and Woodlands

Trees grow well and quickly in the heavy soils of England, and for a long time prehistoric settlers did not have tools strong enough to cut down the heavy oak forests. Over the centuries the expanding human population cut back the forests, so that today only 10 percent of the United Kingdom is forested, roughly 2 million hectares (6 million acres). In contrast,



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25 percent of Europe is forested. Only 8 percent of England is covered by forest, 15 percent of Scotland, 12 percent of Wales, and 6 percent of Northern Ireland. Britain's forests produce about 15 percent of the total wood the country consumes, and Britain imports **substantial** amounts of wood and wood products. Efforts have been made in Britain to grow more trees and expand the managed forest areas. Local authorities have the power to protect trees and woodlands. It is an offense to cut down trees without permission, and when trees protected by the government die they must be replaced.

矿产 Mineral Resources

Britain's mineral resources were historically important, but today most of these resources are either exhausted or produced in small quantities. Britain currently relies upon imports from larger, cheaper foreign supplies. Before and during the Roman occupation, about 2000 years ago, Britain was noted for its tin mines, which were concentrated in Cornwall. The tin was mixed with copper to produce bronze, an important material in ancient times used for weapons and jewelry. Today nearly every tin mine in Britain has been exhausted and shut down.

Britain's small deposits of iron ore were critically important to the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries, particularly because iron ore deposits were located close to rich deposits of coal. When iron ore and coal are heated together, they produce iron alloys, such as wrought iron. When iron ore is heated at high temperatures with coke, a **derivative** of coal, it produces pig iron, a cheaper, softer iron that is more easily purified into the iron and steel essential for constructing machines and railroads. During the Industrial Revolution towns and cities sprang up close to these resources, and they remain among Britain's leading urban areas. Today Britain imports iron, along with most other minerals used for industrial production, although small amounts of iron, zinc, and copper are still produced.

Raw materials for construction, particularly aggregates (minerals mechanically separated from ores), are still important, and many quarries continue to operate profitably. Limestone, sand, gravel, rock, sandstone, clay, chalk, salt, silica sands, gypsum, potash, and fluorspar are all quarried.





Energy Resources

Britain has the richest energy sources in the European Union (EU), and its abundant resources of oil and natural gas are of **vital** importance to the British economy. Until the 1970s small amounts of oil were produced from onshore wells, but this amount was far less than Britain needed. In 1969 large supplies of oil and natural gas were discovered in the North Sea off the eastern coast of Britain, particularly off the coast of Scotland. Oil and natural gas production soared after supplies were brought ashore in 1975. Today Britain is the world's eighth largest producer of crude oil and natural gas liquids, with more than 60 offshore fields. **Refined oil** products are one of Britain's major exports today, most of which are sold to European nations.

For many years coal was mined extensively, providing the primary source of energy in Britain. It was also exported. Coal production reached its peak in 1913, when more than 300 million tons were mined. Today production is less than a sixth of that figure and coal is far less important to the British economy. Britain imports much more coal than it exports.

Britain also has a number of nuclear energy facilities. Britain meets 26 percent of its energy needs through nuclear energy. Recently much research has been devoted to developing biofuels—energy from wastes, landfill gas, and crops—as well as to developing solar energy, wind power, and waterpower.

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iii

ii Key words

limestone

silica \rightarrow \rightarrow

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refined oil 3/400 £»3/400 £»3/400



[illegible]

The Union Jack flag is the most common name for the flag of the United Kingdom. The Union Jack has been in existence since 1606, when England and Scotland **merged**.

merging the En-
Scottish flag (the
background).
Kingdom added
cross). An image

patron saints of
saint of England,
and St. Patrick is the

A black and white photograph of two young men in traditional Scottish kilts and sporrans, playing bagpipes. They are standing outdoors on a grassy area with trees in the background. The photo is mounted on a light-colored page with a white paperclip in the top right corner.

Today, Union Jack flag is the flag of the independent country that has absorbed England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland—the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Union Jack is also incorporated into the flags of four independent countries of the British



Commonwealth – Australia, Fiji, Tuvalu, and New Zealand.

National Anthem

"God Save the Queen" is the national anthem of the United Kingdom. Like many aspects of British constitutional life, its official status derives from custom and use, not from Royal Proclamation or Act of Parliament. In general only one or two verses are sung, but on rare occasions three. The variation in the United Kingdom of the lyrics to "God Save the Queen" is the oldest amongst those currently used, and forms the basis on which all other versions used throughout the Commonwealth are formed; though, again, the words have varied throughout the years.

England has no official national anthem of its own; "God Save the Queen" is treated as the English national anthem when England is represented at sporting events (though there are some exceptions to this rule). There is a movement to establish an English national anthem, with Blake's "Jerusalem" and Elgar's "Land of Hope and Glory" among the top **contenders**. Scotland and Wales have their own anthems for political and national events and for use at international football, rugby union and other sports in which those nations compete independently. On all occasions Wales' national anthem is "Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" (Land of my Fathers). Scotland has no single anthem; "Scotland the Brave" was traditionally used until the 1990s, when "Flower of Scotland" was then adopted. In Northern Ireland, "God Save the Queen" is still used as the official anthem.

Since 2003, "God Save the Queen", considered an all **inclusive** Anthem for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as other countries within the Commonwealth, has been dropped from the Commonwealth Games. Northern Irish athletes receive their gold medals to the tune of the "Londonderry Air", popularly known as "Danny Boy", **whilst** English winners hear



Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March Number 1, usually known as Land of Hope and Glory. In sports in which the UK competes as one nation, most notably as Great Britain at the Olympics "God Save the Queen" is used to represent anyone or any team that comes from the United Kingdom.



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God save our gracious Queen,	O Lord our God arise,	Thy choicest gifts in store
Long live our noble Queen,	Scatter her enemies,	On her be pleased to pour;
God save the Queen:	And make them fall:	Long may she reign:
Send her victorious,	Confound their politics,	May she defend our laws,
Happy and glorious,	Frustrate their knavish tricks,	And ever give us cause
Long to reign over us:	On Thee our hopes we fix:	To sing with heart and voice
God save the Queen	God save us all.	God save the Queen.

[illegible]