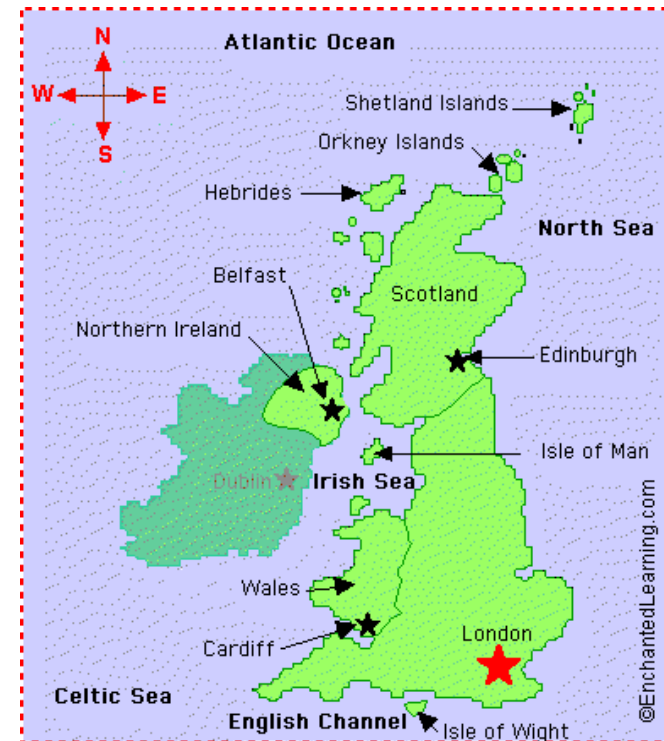


The United Kingdom

- Apart from the land border with the Irish republic, the United Kingdom is surrounded by sea. To the south of England and between the United Kingdom and France is the **English Channel**. **The North Sea** lies to the east. To the west of Wales and northern England and to the southeast of Northern Ireland, the **Irish Sea** separates Great Britain from Ireland, while southwestern England, the northwestern coast of Northern Ireland, and western Scotland face the **Atlantic Ocean**.
- At its widest the United Kingdom is 300 miles (500 km) across. From the northern tip of Scotland to the southern coast of England, it is about 600 miles (1,000 km). No part is more than 75 miles (120 km) from the sea.
- The capital, London, is situated on the tidal River Thames in southeastern England.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/615557/United-Kingdom>



The UK has a total area of approximately 245,000 km², almost a quarter-of-a-million square kilometres.

- Highest peak: Ben Nevis (1,344 metres) in the Grampian Mountains, Scotland



Lowest point:

The Fens, also known as the **Fenland(s)**, are a naturally marshy region in eastern England. Most of the fens were drained several centuries ago, resulting in a flat, damp, low-lying agricultural region. Most of the Fenland lies within a few metres of sea level.



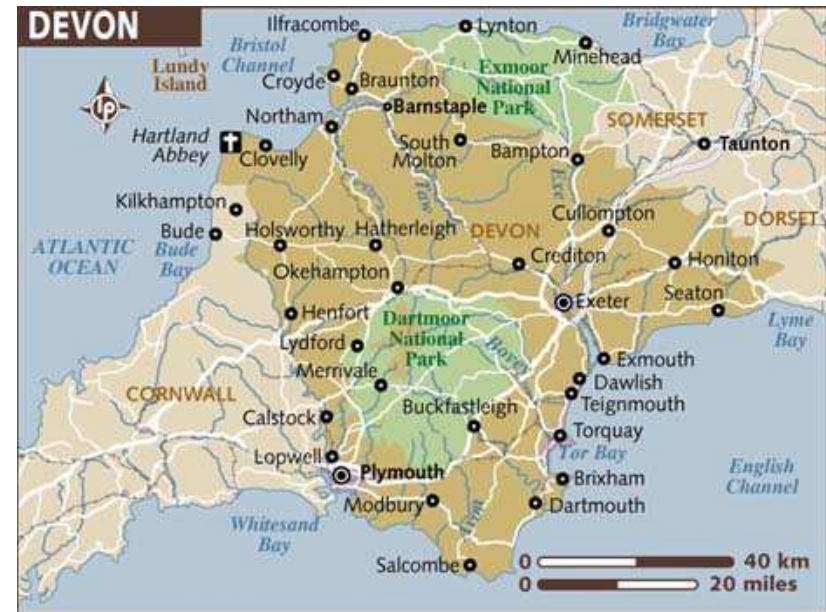
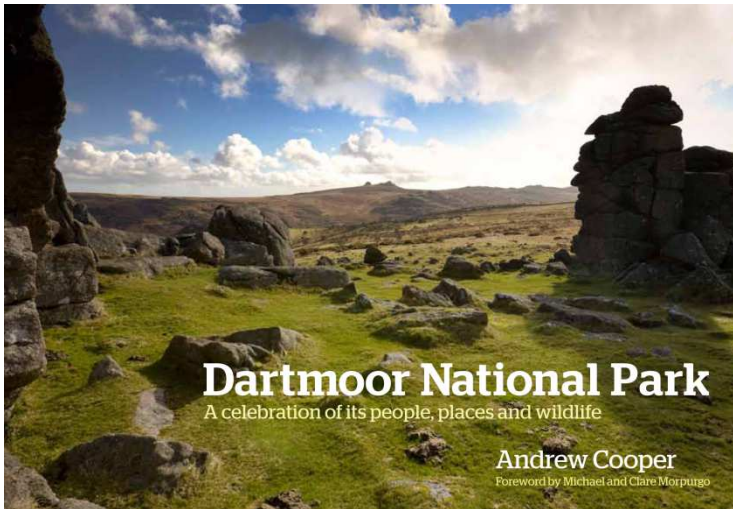
Scotland and Wales are the most **mountainous** parts of the UK. A ridge of hills, the **Pennine**, runs down the centre of northern England.

- Cambrian Mts, Wales
- The Grampians, Scotland
- The Pennines, England



Most of the UK is made up of **gently rolling hills** with isolated areas of high ground such as **Dartmoor** in the south-west of England or the **Mourne Mountains** in Northern Ireland.

- **Dartmoor NP**



Mourne Mts, Northern Ireland



Northern Ireland is also home to the UK's **largest lake**, Lough Neagh, which covers an area of 396sq.km (153 sq miles).



Other major lakes include **Windermere** in the English Lake District and **Loch Lomond** in Scotland. Another of Scotland's lakes, **Loch Ness** is famous for sightings of 'Nessie', a mythical monster!



UK Rivers

- **The longest river in the UK is the river Severn**, just 220 miles in length. It begins in Wales and enters the Atlantic Ocean near Bristol in England.
- **Other major rivers** include the **Thames**, which flows through Oxford and London, and the **Trent** and Mersey rivers, which drain rainfall from large areas of central England.
- Among the most important rivers in the UK is the **Thames**, which flows into the North Sea. Its length is 346 km and it is the deepest river in Britain. It is navigable as far as the capital of Great Britain – London.

<http://primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/rivers/UK.htm>



UK Climate

- The main influence on our climate is our close **proximity to the Atlantic Ocean**, our northern latitude, and the warming of the waters around the land by the **Gulf Stream** (a warm current of the northern Atlantic Ocean).
- Our island is small compared with the other land masses in the northern hemisphere – hence Britain is more influenced by the ocean compared with other European countries, and the Gulf Stream helps to keep winters milder compared with other landlocked nations with a similar latitude.
- **Rain** is fairly well distributed throughout the year, with late winter/spring (February to March) the driest period and autumn/winter (October to January) the wettest.
- **The Lake District is England's wettest region**, receiving an average of 130 inches (330 centimeters) of precipitation each year. The western and northern hills receive about 40 inches (102 centimeters) of rain, while the east coast receives about 20 inches (51 centimetres).

<http://projectbritain.com/climate.html>

UK Climate

- We never know what the weather will be like from one day to the other. It can be sunny one day and rainy the next. As we have such a variable climate changing from day to day, it is difficult to predict the weather. In general we have **warm summers** and **cool winters**. **Our summers are cooler than those on the continent, but the winters are milder.**
- **Temperate Climate**
- The overall climate in England is called **temperate maritime (óceáni éghajlat)**. This means that it is mild with temperatures not much lower than 0°C in winter and not much higher than 32°C in summer. It also means that it is damp and is subject to frequent changes.

<http://projectbritain.com/climate.html>

Population of the UK

- **noun:** Briton(s), British (collective plural)
- **adjective:** British
- UK population: 63,7m (2013)
- The UK is now the third largest EU nation behind Germany and France.
- Ethnic groups: - white 87.1%,
 - Asian 7%
 - black 3%,
 - mixed 2%,
 - other 0.9% (2011 census)
- Multicultural and multi-ethnic community.
- The UK is ethnically diverse, partly as **a legacy of empire**. Lately, the country has been struggling with issues revolving around multiculturalism, immigration and national identity.

Population of the UK – no. 2

- **urban population:** 80% of total population (2010)
- Major urban areas:
 - LONDON (capital) 8.615 million;
 - Birmingham 2.296 million;
 - Manchester 2.247 million;
 - West Yorkshire 1.541 million;
 - Glasgow 1.166 million (2009)