



Geography – The United Kingdom

Key Knowledge

- The United Kingdom includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Each country in the UK has a capital city: London (England), Edinburgh (Scotland), Cardiff (Wales) and Belfast (Northern Ireland).
- The UK has many physical features, including mountain ranges, rivers and coastlines.
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, also known as the UK, is a country located off the north-eastern coast of mainland Europe.
- London is the capital of the UK, which is among the world's leading commercial, financial, and cultural centres.
- The land area of the UK is around 242,500km² and the population is around 66 million. It is in the continent of Europe.
- The origins of the United Kingdom can be traced to the time of the Anglo-Saxon king Athelstan, who in the early 10th century CE secured the allegiance of neighbouring Celtic kingdoms and became "the first to rule what previously many kings shared between them.
- There are a number of ways power is generated in the UK. Energy can be generated at gas-fired power stations, by nuclear power and by burning coal.
- There are also renewable power options in the UK that use the wind, sun or water to generate energy.

In this unit children will:

- Locate the four countries of the United Kingdom.
- Look at key physical and human features of each UK country.
- Review the location of countries, capitals and seas by labelling maps.
- Use an atlas to explore the four countries of the UK
- Explore the regions of the UK and the location of cities and capital cities.
- Plan a UK road trip.
- Compare the countries of the UK.
- Compare the UK's major cities.
- Compare physical characteristics of the UK.
- Compare the UK's landscape and people.
- Compare industries in the UK.
- Compare energy sources in the UK.
- Explore the physical features of the UK, including mountain ranges, rivers and coastlines.
- Look at how humans have affected the UK's landscape.
- Explore the different industries in the UK and the location and usage of the National Parks.
- Explore the different types of energy we use in the UK and how renewable energy has positive and negative aspects.

Key places:



Key Vocabulary

Economy – the wealth and resources of a place

Development – how places and communities change

Industry – the production of goods (such as cars) or services (such as tourism or entertainment)

Sustainable development – change that respects the natural environment and does not harm future generations

Coastline – the land along a coast

Energy source – something that can be used to provide power for light, heat, machines

Landmark – an object or feature of a landscape or town that is easily seen and recognised from a distance

Offshore – situated at sea, some distance from the shore

Onshore – situated or occurring on land

Scale bar – a line or bar divided into parts. It is labelled with its ground length, usually in multiples of map units, such as tens of kilometres or hundreds of miles

Settlement – a place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community

Migration – movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or have better living conditions

Immigration – the action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country

Trade route – a long-distance route along which commercial goods are transported

Grid reference – a map reference indicating a location in terms of a series of vertical and horizontal grid lines identified by numbers or letters



London

London is the capital and largest city of England and the United Kingdom. Founded by the Romans, London stands on the south-east coast of England on the River Thames. London is deemed to be an important global city, and is an important world financial/ political centre. Famous landmarks include Big Ben and Buckingham Palace.



Edinburgh

Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland, and is the seat of the Scottish Government and Parliament. The city is a well-known centre of education, law, medicine and philosophy, and is the second-biggest financial centre (after London). It is widely considered to be an extremely beautiful city, and is amongst Britain's most visited tourist centres.



Cardiff

Cardiff is the capital and largest city of Wales, and the 11th-largest city in the UK. It is the seat of the National Assembly for Wales. Cardiff is Wales' chief commercial centre, and also its most visited city. Cardiff has undergone major development recently, to create new and vast business and sporting districts, including the Principality Stadium.

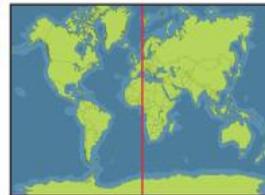


Belfast

Belfast is the capital and largest city of Northern Ireland. Since the early 19th Century, Belfast has been a major port, playing a key role in the Industrial Revolution and was the place in which *The Titanic* was built. Belfast was the scene of widespread violence in 'The Troubles' of the 1980s and 1990s, however it is now ranked as one of the UK's safest cities.

Why Might People Come and Move to the UK?

Many people decide to move to and live permanently in the UK. These immigrants can come from all over the world including Italy, India, China and Australia. They might decide to live in the UK to be nearer to family, for work or for a different lifestyle.



Prime Meridian

This imaginary line runs through the Royal Observatory in Greenwich. It is also used as the basis for the world's time zones.

Physical Geography Features

Physical Geography Features		
Natural Resources		About 75% of land in the UK is suitable for farming – farmers grow both crops and rear animals. Oil and natural gas are also produced. Britain also has rich deposits of coal.
National Parks		There are 15 National Parks across England, Scotland and Wales, which have all been created since 1950. National Parks aim to protect the outstanding countryside in their area, and provide recreation opportunities.
Climate and Weather		The UK has a reputation for grey skies, and indeed over half of all days are overcast. Britain is milder than other places at the same latitude, largely because of warm air arriving from the Atlantic via the Gulf Stream. In general, the south is warmer and brighter than the north.
Topography		The terrain of Britain is roughly split into highland and lowland by the Tees-Exe line (shown in picture). North and West of the line are the highlands (including Ben Nevis and Mount Snowdon) whilst to the south and east of the line are lowlands (including the Fens).