



# THE UNITED KINGDOM KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



## Map and Overview



- 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.
- It contains the constituent countries of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, in addition to other territories and dependencies.
- The capital city of England is London, Scotland is Edinburgh, Wales is Cardiff and Northern Ireland is Belfast. London is the capital of the UK.
- The land area of the UK is around 242,500km<sup>2</sup> and the population is around 66 million. It is in the continent of Europe.

## Places in the United Kingdom

### Most Populous UK counties (people)

1. Greater London – 8.8 million
2. West Midlands – 2.9 million
3. Greater Manchester – 2.8 million
4. West Yorkshire – 2.3 million
5. Essex – 1.8 million

The UK is current split into 100 geographic counties – 48 in England, 33 in Scotland, 13 in Wales and 6 in Northern Ireland.

### Most populous UK cities (people)

1. London – 9.75 million
2. Birmingham – 2.5 million
3. Manchester – 1.9 million
4. Glasgow – 1.1 million
5. Newcastle – 837,500



### 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.

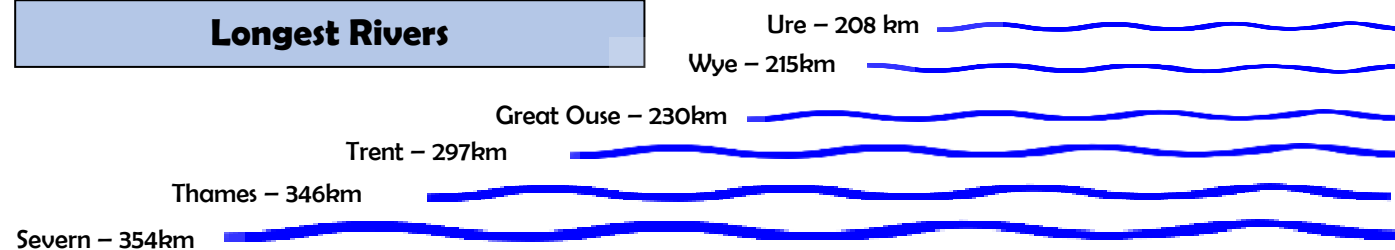
It is the seat of the National Assembly for Wales. Cardiff is Wales' chief commercial centre, and also its most visited city. Cardiff has undergone major development recently, to create new and vast business and sporting districts, including the Principality Stadium.

### Belfast



Belfast is the capital and largest city of Northern Ireland. Since the early 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Longest Rivers



## Human Geography Features

<b>Population Densities</b>		The overall population density of the UK is 259 people per square kilometre. England is the most densely populated of the constituent countries – especially the English southeast, where one third of UK's population lives.	<b>What?</b> A low birth rate means that the population of the UK is slow-growing.	<b>Key Fact:</b> The population density of London is 5,200 per km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Ethnic Groups</b>		For centuries, people have migrated to Britain from different parts of the world. Almost 87% of the population are white, with many holding ancestry from the European mainland (e.g. Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Vikings, and Romans).	<b>Who?</b> Those from Indian backgrounds account for 2.4% of the UK population.	<b>Key Fact:</b> Large communities of Caribbean and South Asians have lived in the UK since the 1950s and 1960s.
<b>The Monarchy</b>		Britain is a constitutional monarchy – it has a Royal Family, but they do not make most of the decision for the country (it is a democracy). The current monarch is Queen Elizabeth II, who has been the queen of the country since 1952.	<b>When?</b> Elizabeth's coronation was on 6 <sup>th</sup> February 1952, a reign of over 67 years!	<b>Key Fact:</b> In the Middle Ages, there used to be separate monarchs for different areas of the country.
<b>Sports/ Recreation</b>		Sport plays a major part in UK culture. Several sports were founded in the UK, e.g. football, rugby, cricket, netball and tennis. Football is the most popular sport, with the FA Premier League is the most watched in the world.	<b>What?</b> 15.3 million people regularly play sport in the UK.	<b>Key Fact:</b> In the UK, around 2.9 million people participate each week.
<b>Overseas Territories</b>		Britain has 14 overseas territories, each with their own government. Most remain from the time of the British Empire, though Britain's policy now is to give independence to territories who want it.	<b>How?</b> Britain is responsible for providing defence to its territories.	<b>Key Fact:</b> Some territories are disputed, e.g. Gibraltar with Spain.

## Physical Geography Features

<b>Natural Resources</b>		About 75% of land in the UK is suitable for farming – farmers both grow crops and rear animals. Oil and natural gas are also produced. Britain also has rich deposits of coal.	<b>What?</b> Coal production is down one-fifth since the mid-20 <sup>th</sup> Century.	<b>Key Fact:</b> Crops are grown on flatter land, animals reared on more mountainous zones.
<b>National Parks</b>		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.	<b>What?</b> The largest National Park is called Cairngorms in Scotland, at 3,800 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Key Fact:</b> National Parks account for 10% of the total land in England, and 20% of Wales.
<b>Climate and Weather</b>		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.	<b>Where?</b> The east coast of the United Kingdom is drier than the west coast.	<b>Key Fact:</b> Northern Scotland has on average 5 hours of sun a day, whilst the Isle of Wight in the south has 8 hours.
<b>Loch Ness</b>		Loch Ness is a large, deep freshwater lake in the Scottish Highlands. For years, there was rumoured to be a monster ('Nessie') living in the lake, but this was later revealed to be a hoax!	<b>Where?</b> Loch Ness is 37km southwest of Inverness.	<b>Key Fact:</b> The Loch Ness Monster was first reported on in 1933.
<b>Topography</b>		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).	<b>Where?</b> The highest mountains on Great Britain are in the Scottish Highlands.	<b>Key Fact:</b> You could say the UK's tallest mountain is actually Mount Hope, in British Antarctic Territory, at 3239m!

## Highest Mountains

