

## Topic “Great Britain”

*8<sup>th</sup> form*

I would like to tell you about the UK. The UK is an abbreviation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It's situated on the British Isles and lies between the Atlantic Ocean in the north and west and the North Sea in the east. The UK is separated from France by the English Channel. In its narrowest part it's called the Strait of Dover. Under the English Channel there is the Channel Tunnel, which links the UK with France. The Channel Tunnel is the longest undersea tunnel in the world.

The UK is an island country. No one in the UK lives more than 120 km from the sea. Only Northern Ireland, part of the UK, shares a 360 km international land border with the Republic of Ireland. The UK doesn't border on any other countries.

The UK is a small, lovely, cosy, varied and extremely attractive. It's a real attraction for tourists. It's full of beauty and contrasts. Its landscape is extremely varied, so everyone will find something they will enjoy. There are grassy plains, beautiful wide and narrow valleys and purple heathery moorlands covering the mountains, velvet hills, thick forests, picturesque lakes and marvellous beaches. The longest rivers in the UK are the River Thames, the River Severn and the River Trent. The largest lakes are Lough Neagh and Lower Lough Erne in Northern Ireland and Loch Lomond in Scotland. The highest peaks in the UK are Ben Nevis in Scotland, Snowdon in Wales and Scafell Pike in England.

The UK is made up of four countries – England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They are not independent countries, but “countries in a country”. They share citizenship, the armed forces, money, parliament and the capital – London. Nevertheless, each of the countries has its own national flag, emblem, anthem and public holidays. For example, the national emblem of England is the rose. The national emblem of Scotland is the thistle. The national emblem of Wales is the daffodil. The national emblem of Northern Ireland is the shamrock.

Only people from England are English. People from Wales are the Welsh, people from Scotland are the Scottish, people from Northern Ireland are Irish. But everybody from the UK is British.

Everywhere in the UK English is the official and common language. Nevertheless, each country of the UK has its own language.

The UK is a kingdom. Queen Elizabeth II has been the head of the country since 1952. In fact the country is run by the government, which is made up of ministers.

There are so many places to see and things to do in the UK, so by all means go and enjoy the stunning scenery of this fascinating country.

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