

UNITED KINGDOM

United Kingdom Quick Facts

Official Name: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Total area: 243,610 sq km
Population: 64,430,428 (July 2016 est.)
GDP: \$2.788 trillion (2016 est.)
Government: parliamentary constitutional monarchy
Capital: London
Motto: God and my right

The United Kingdom (UK) is an island nation. It is made up of the island of Great Britain, which includes England, Scotland, and Wales, and Northern Ireland, which is part of the island of Ireland. There are also many smaller islands surrounding Great Britain that are part of the UK. In addition, the United Kingdom is one of 16 realms of the Commonwealth around the world that all share the same monarch as head of state. That monarch is the current queen or king of England.

The head of government in the United Kingdom is the prime minister. The leader of the party in the majority in Parliament usually becomes the prime minister. Parliament is the

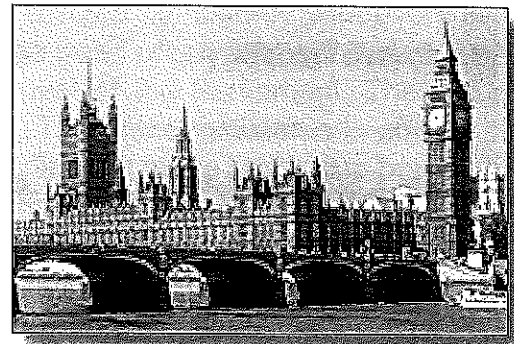
legislative branch of government. It consists of the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The Supreme Court has 12 justices, including the court president and deputy president.

London is the capital of the United Kingdom and the capital of England. It is located on the River Thames and has long been an important city for trade, shipping, and government. Some of England's best-known landmarks are in London. These include Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, and Big Ben.

The United Kingdom is surrounded by seas that are extensions of the Atlantic Ocean. The North Sea is off the north and east coasts. The English Channel is between the southern coast of England and the northern coast of France. The Irish Sea separates Great Britain from Ireland on the west. The northwest coast borders the Atlantic Ocean. From the seaports of the UK, explorers, merchants, and the Royal Navy sent ships all over the world to form a vast British Empire. Major port cities include Bristol, Southampton, Portsmouth, Liverpool, London, Belfast, and Aberdeen.

The landscape of the United Kingdom is varied from mountains to low wetlands. Scotland, north-central England, Wales, and Northern Ireland feature mountains. The highest point in the UK is Ben Nevis in Scotland at 1,345 m (4,411 ft). The largest freshwater lake in the UK is Lough Neagh near the center of Northern Ireland. The many lakes in the valleys of the Cumbria Mountains in England have led to the region being called the Lake District. Much of the UK is rolling hills suitable for grazing livestock and producing crops such as grains, oilseeds, potatoes, and other vegetables. In eastern and southern England, there are low-lying areas that flood during heavy rains. Moors are areas of tough grasses and shrubs in both uplands and lowlands. Heather and peat may be harvested from these areas.

Manufacturing once dominated the economy in the United Kingdom. Today, banking, insurance, and business services contribute the most to the economy. In 2016, the citizens of the UK voted to leave the European Union (EU), which is an economic and political union of European nations. Now there is uncertainty about how the UK will deal with other countries over such things as trade agreements and political treaties.



The Houses of Parliament in London

Name: _____ Date: _____

UNITED KINGDOM WORD SCRAMBLE

Directions: Use the clues below to help you unscramble the words associated with the United Kingdom. Write the unscrambled words on the lines provided.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <p>1. AREGT ABINRIT
_____</p> | <p>1. This island includes England, Scotland, and Wales.</p> |
| <p>2. OATMLHOMWNEC
_____</p> | <p>2. The realms of the _____ all share the same monarch as head of state.</p> |
| <p>3. TNAIREAPML
_____</p> | <p>3. _____ is the legislative branch of government in the United Kingdom.</p> |
| <p>4. MESHTA
_____</p> | <p>4. The River _____ flows through London.</p> |
| <p>5. ENWSTMSRIET
_____</p> | <p>5. _____ Abbey is one of the landmarks found in London.</p> |
| <p>6. NILESGH HENNCAL
_____</p> | <p>6. The _____ _____ is found between England and France.</p> |
| <p>7. HIRSI AES
_____</p> | <p>7. The _____ _____ separates Great Britain from Ireland.</p> |
| <p>8. VOLPREILO
_____</p> | <p>8. _____ is one of the major ports of the UK.</p> |
| <p>9. TASC DONL
_____</p> | <p>9. Ben Nevis in _____ is the highest point in the UK.</p> |
| <p>10. GULOH HANGE
_____</p> | <p>10. The largest freshwater lake in the UK is _____ _____ in Northern Ireland.</p> |
| <p>11. NGNIKAB
_____</p> | <p>11. _____ is a major part of the United Kingdom's economy today.</p> |
| <p>12. RAUOE EPN
_____</p> | <p>12. Citizens of the UK voted in 2016 to leave the _____ Union.</p> |

