

GEOGRAPHY · Y3-Y6

UK Geography

Knowledge Organiser — KS2 Geography

Key vocabulary

1

United Kingdom (UK)

Political union of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

2

Great Britain

Just England, Scotland and Wales (the big island, without Northern Ireland).

3

British Isles

The geographical group of islands — UK plus Republic of Ireland and smaller islands.

4

Capital city

The city where a country's government is based.

5

County

Region of a country, like Yorkshire or Devon. Used for local government.

6

Border

Line where one country or region ends and another begins.

7

Coast

Where land meets the sea.

8

Population

Number of people who live somewhere.



countries of the UK

Capitals, populations, key f

- ENGLAND — Capital: LONDON. Largest country. Population about 56 million.
- SCOTLAND — Capital: EDINBURGH. Has highest mountains (incl. Ben Nevis). Population about 5.5 million.
- WALES — Capital: CARDIFF. Has Snowdonia mountains and longest place name in UK. Population about 3 million.
- NORTHERN IRELAND — Capital: BELFAST. Shares the island of Ireland with Republic of Ireland. Population about 1.9 million.
- Total UK population: about 67 million.
- Each country has its own flag. The Union Jack combines flags of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

major UK cities

Where most people live

- LONDON (England) — capital and largest city, 9 million people
- BIRMINGHAM (England) — second largest city
- MANCHESTER (England) — major northern city
- LIVERPOOL (England) — port city, home of the Beatles
- LEEDS (England) — northern city
- GLASGOW (Scotland) — Scotland's largest city
- EDINBURGH (Scotland) — Scotland's capital
- CARDIFF (Wales) — Welsh capital
- SWANSEA (Wales) — Wales's second city
- BELFAST (Northern Ireland) — Northern Ireland's capital



Physical features

Mountains, rivers, coast

- Highest peak: BEN NEVIS (Scotland), 1,345m
- England's highest: SCAFELL PIKE (Lake District), 978m
- Wales's highest: SNOWDON (now Yr Wyddfa), 1,085m
- Longest river: SEVERN (354 km), flowing through England and Wales
- Most famous river: THAMES (346 km), through London
- Largest lake: LOUGH NEAGH (Northern Ireland)
- Famous lakes: LAKE DISTRICT (England) — Windermere, Ullswater. SCOTTISH LOCHS — Loch Ness, Loch Lomond.
- Coastline: about 12,000 km long — almost everywhere in UK is within 70 miles of the sea.

UK climate

Mild, wet, changeable

- TEMPERATE climate — mild temperatures, four seasons.
- WEST is wetter than EAST (rain comes from the Atlantic).
- NORTH is colder than SOUTH.
- MOUNTAINS are colder, snowier, wetter.
- Hottest temperature ever recorded: 40.3°C (Coningsby, 2022).
- Coldest: -27.2°C (Braemar, Scotland).
- Snow common in Scottish highlands; rare in southern England.
- Rainfall heaviest on west coast — Lake District gets over 3,000mm a year.
- Driest area: East Anglia — under 600mm a year.
- UK weather is famously changeable — 'four seasons in a day'.

