

Introduction

This support pack accompanies:

UK Culture – Climate and Geography

To watch the video online, go to:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/uk-culture/climate-and-geography>

This support pack contains the following materials:

- a pre-watching vocabulary activity;
- the tape script
- 2 comprehension tasks



So what is the United Kingdom?

To give it its full title it's 'The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland'. You might hear it referred to as Britain, Great Britain or more often, simply as 'The UK'.

Before you watch / read

Match the words and phrases in the table to their definitions.

1. distinct	2. boasting	3. sparsely	4. lies	5. adjacent to
6. hilly	7. rugged	8. consists of	9. spells	10. prevailing

Definitions:

- a. to be made or formed of
- b. be in a particular place or position
- c. next to
- d. clearly separate and different
- e. wild, not even, difficult to travel over
- f. small in number and over a large area
- g. having lots of parts higher than the surrounding land
- h. having something to be proud of
- i. which blows in a particular place
- j. short periods of a particular type of weather

Transcript: UK Culture - Geography and Climate

So, what is the United Kingdom?

To give it its full title it's 'The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland'. You might hear it referred to as Britain, Great Britain or more often, simply as 'The UK'.

Four countries make up the UK – England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. It consists of a group of islands - 2 large ones and several hundred smaller ones. By far the largest island is that which is divided into three countries - England, Wales and Scotland. This island is about 700 miles long and is 300 miles at its widest point. At its nearest point only the 22 miles of the English Channel separate it from the coast of France.

England's capital London is also the capital city of the UK. Most of England consists of lowland with some mountainous terrain northwest of a line drawn between the Humber estuary in the East and the river Exe in the Southwest.

Wales, with its capital Cardiff, lies to the West having a coastline adjacent to the Irish Sea. It is more mountainous than England, particularly in North and Mid Wales.

To the North is Scotland which consists of two very distinct regions known as the Highlands and the Lowlands. The Highlands region is to the North and West of the country and is much more mountainous than its lowland sister. The rugged terrain of the highlands ensures the region is sparsely populated.

The Lowlands region is home to most of Scotland's population. It's here where Scotland's capital, Edinburgh and the larger city of Glasgow will be found.

Crossing the Irish Sea takes us to Ireland of which only the north eastern corner (Northern Ireland) is part of the UK. The rest of this island is a separate country, the Republic of Ireland. Northern Ireland, with its capital, Belfast, is a hilly region boasting the largest inland body of water in the UK, Lough Neagh, at 150 square miles.

The prevailing winds tend to come from the southwest, bringing with them frequent spells of mild but wet weather from the Atlantic Ocean. Overall though the climate is fairly temperate and similar to much of northern Europe.

Comprehension Task

Multiple Choice

Read the questions and choose the right answers.

1. The United Kingdom contains
 - a. a hundred of small island.
 - b. hundreds of small islands.
 - c. thousands of small islands.

2. England consists mainly of
 - a. low land with a few mountains.
 - b. highlands and lowlands.
 - c. mountains and lowlands.

3. The highlands of Scotland have
 - a. few people and many mountains.
 - b. many people and few mountains.
 - c. many people and many mountains.

4. Most people in Scotland live
 - a. in the Highlands.
 - b. in the mountains.
 - c. in the Lowlands.

5. The Atlantic Ocean brings lots of
 - a. cold windy weather.
 - b. wet but not too cold weather.
 - c. cold and wet weather.

Task 2

22	300	4	700	2	150
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Match the numbers

Match the numbers in the box to make facts about the UK.

1. The number of miles that separate the largest island from France =
2. The length in miles of the largest of the UK islands =
3. The number of distinct regions in Scotland =
4. The size in square miles of the largest inland body of water =
5. The maximum width in miles of the largest island in the UK =
6. The number of countries which make up the United Kingdom =

Answers

Before you watch / read: 1 - d, 2 - h, 3 - f, 4 - b, 5 - c, 6 - g, 7 - e, 8 - a, 9 - j, 10 - i!
Comprehension Task: 11 - b, 2 - a, 3 - a, 4 - c, 5 - b
Task 2: 1 - 22, 2 - 700, 3 - 2, 4 - 150, 5 - 300, 6 - 4