

The UK

The **UK** is made up of the **island** of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is surrounded by the English Channel, the North Sea, the Irish Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean.

Map of the UK



Year 2 Geography: What is London like?

Autumn 2026

Countries in the United Kingdom

England: England is the largest **country** in the **UK**. London is the **capital city**. Many parts of England are flat but there is also lots of rural **countryside** with rolling hills and valleys in the north.

Scotland: Scotland is a **country** in the north of the **UK**. Edinburgh is the **capital city**. Scotland has large mountains including Ben Nevis, which is the largest in the **UK**.

Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland is the smallest **country** in the **UK**. Belfast is the **capital city**. One of the most famous **landmarks** is Giant's Causeway (natural rock steps mostly hexagonal in shape).

Wales: Wales is a mountainous **country** in the west of the **UK**. Cardiff is the **capital city**. Wales has its own language (Welsh). Not everyone there speaks it though.

Key Vocabulary

capital city	A town or city where the government sits.
landmark	A feature of a landscape or place that is easily recognised. It could be something made by people (a human feature) or something that occurred naturally (a physical feature). Big Ben is a landmark in London.
population	How many people live in one particular place. This could be the population of a city, a town , a country or the whole world.
country	An area of land with its own government, rules and borders.
UK	The United Kingdom. It is made up of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
island	An area of land surrounded by water.

The Capital City of the UK

London is a very busy and built-up city with lots of important buildings.

There are lots of different ways of travelling around London. There are train stations, the London Underground (sometimes called the 'tube') and buses.

London has lots of famous **landmarks**. These include the London Eye, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Tower Bridge and Westminster Abbey.

London hosted the Olympic Games in 2012 and it was an exciting time for sport in the **UK**.

While there are lots of buildings, London also has lots of green spaces in its parks, including Hyde Park and Regents Park.

The King lives at Buckingham Palace.

London has lots of tourists, who visit from other places in the **country** and the world.

London

London is the **capital city** of the **UK**. It is the largest city in England. It has a **population** of about nine million people.

London is found in the Northern Hemisphere.

London has a temperate climate. This means that temperatures vary all year round but are generally not extremely hot or extremely cold. Weather is seasonal and summers are often warm and winters are often cool.

