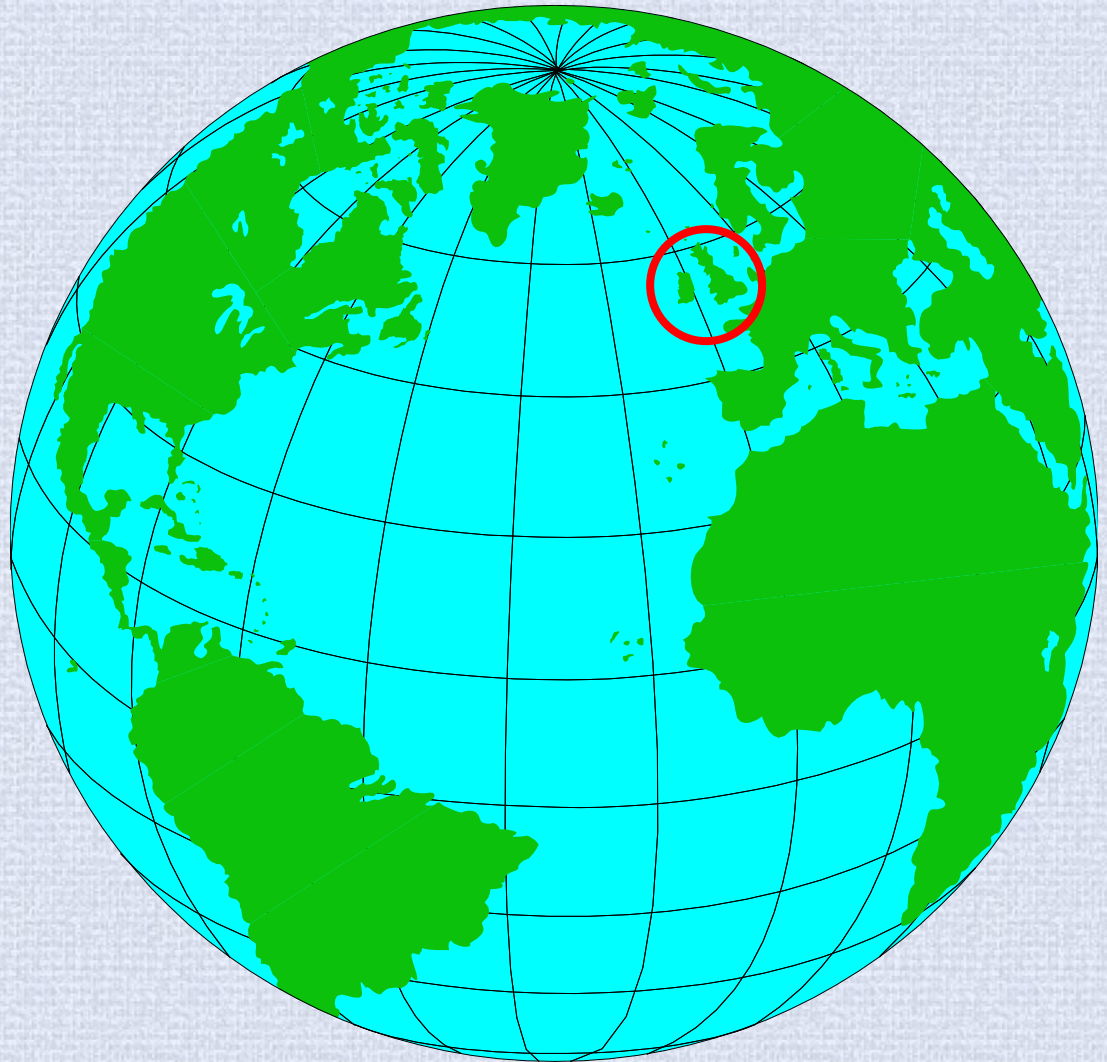




THE UNITED KINGDOM
Raffaella Antinucci

COUNTRY AND PEOPLE

- 1. Geographically speaking**
- 2. Politically speaking**
- 3. A bit of history**
- 4. The four nations**
- 5. The dominance of England**
- 6. National loyalties**







British Isles?

Britain?

England?

1. GEOGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

- ❖ The British Isles are a group of islands in **north-west** coast of Europe.
- ❖ The British Isles consists of two large islands, **Great Britain** and **Ireland**, and a great number of small islands. The total area is over 314,000 sq.km.
- ❖ The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is situated on the British Isles. It comprises England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The capital is London.

The British Isles

(Ireland + Great Britain)



IRELAND

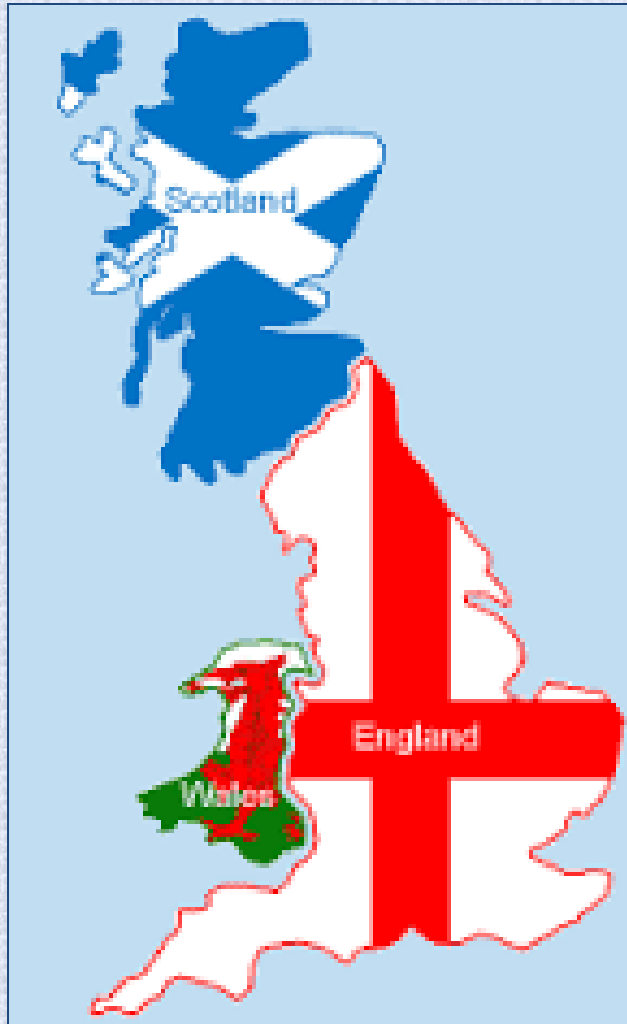


Ireland is an island.

It consists of:

- **Northern Ireland (Ulster)**
- **The Republic of Ireland (Eire)**

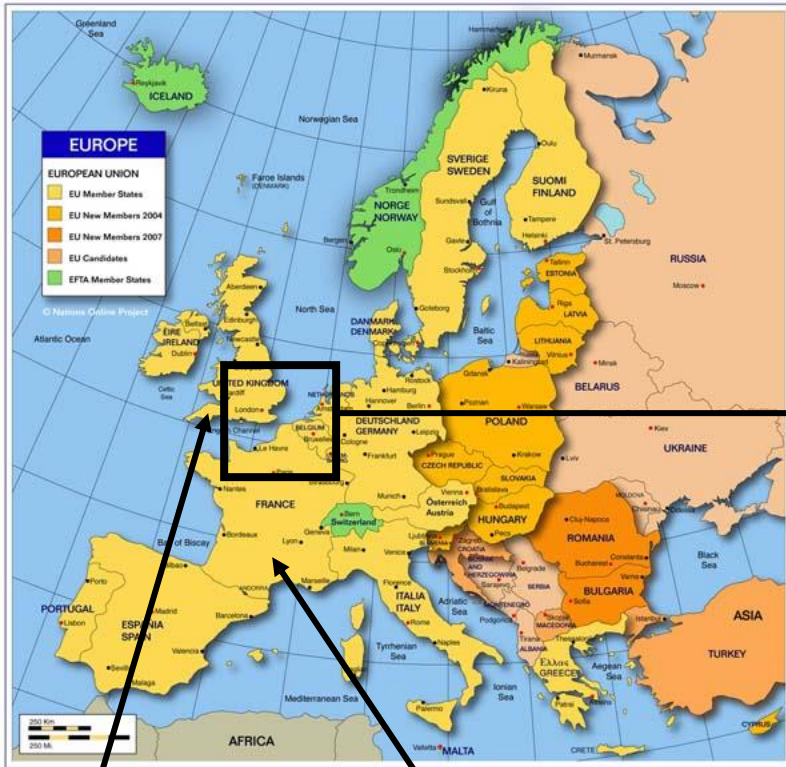
GREAT BRITAIN



Great Britain is an island. It consists of:

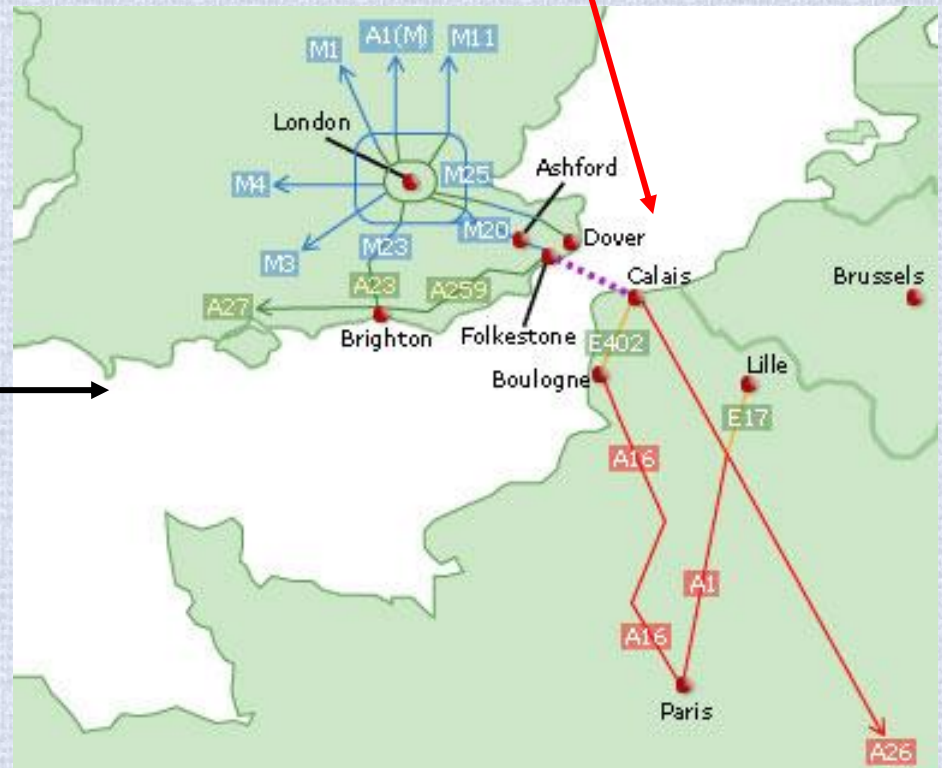
- **Scotland**
- **Wales**
- **England.**

The largest island, **Great Britain**, is linked to **France** by the **Channel Tunnel**



Great Britain

France



The “Chunnel” covers a distance of 35 km under water

Why is it “great”?

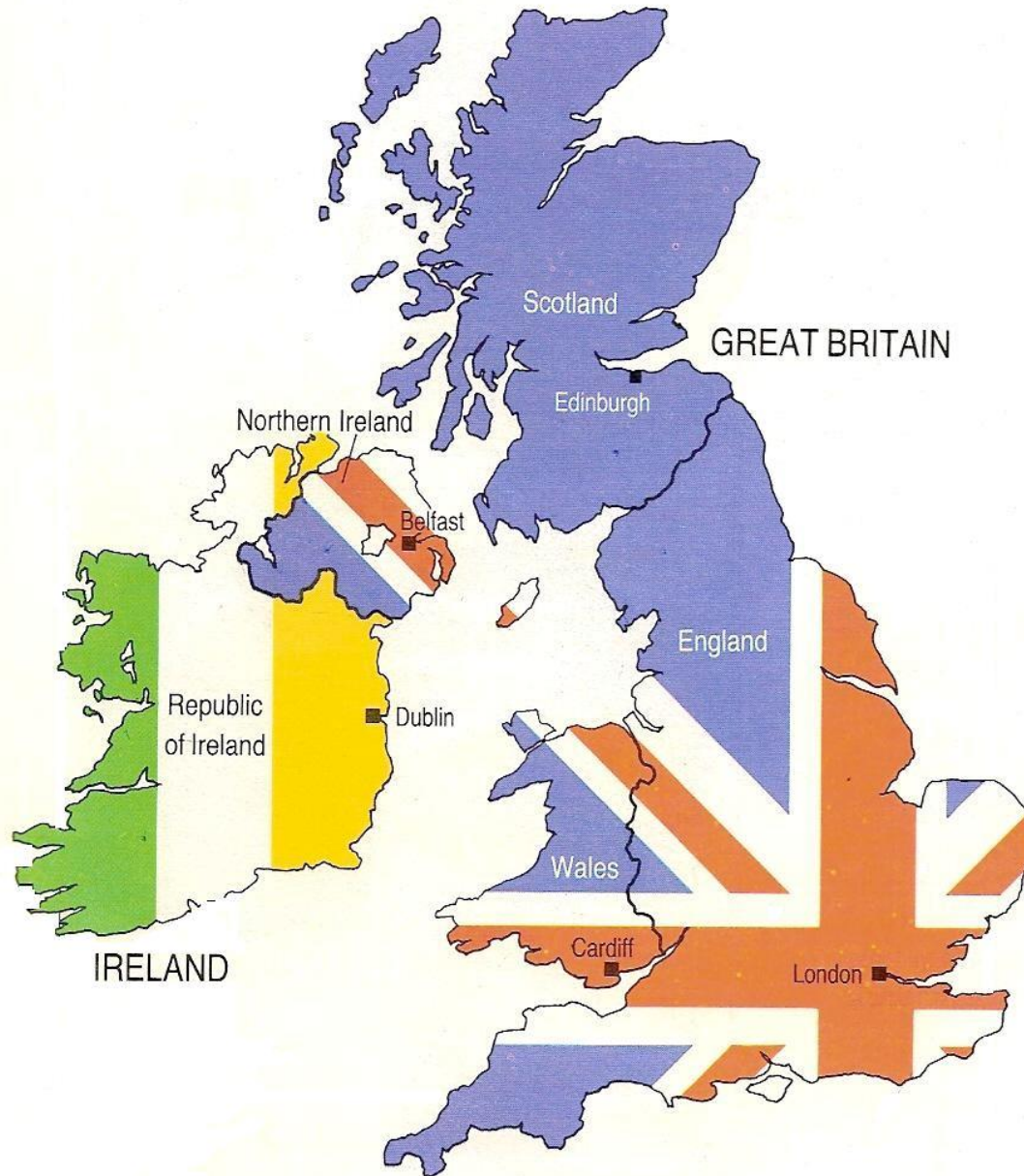


2. POLITICALLY SPEAKING

In the British Isles there are two states:

- *The Republic of Ireland* governs most of the island of Ireland (it is also called “Eire”, “Ireland” or “the Republic”).
- *The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland* has authority over the rest of the British Isles (the whole of Great Britain, the northeastern area of Ireland and most of the smaller islands).

The British Isles: political



The United Kingdom (.uk)



The United Kingdom consist of 4 countries:

-England

-Scotland

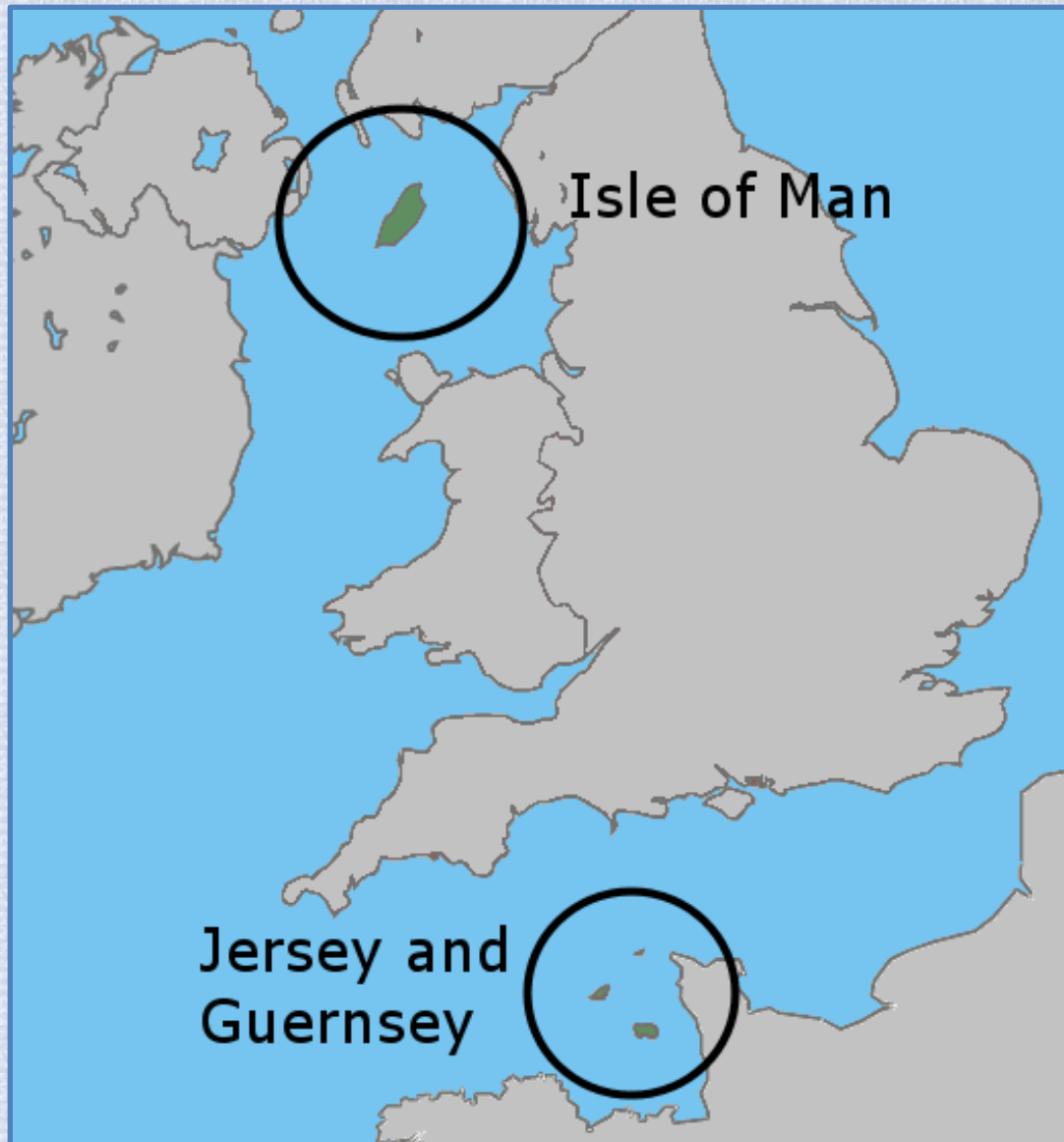
-Wales

-Northern Ireland

and 3 “crown dependencies”.

The capital of UK is London, which is the capital of England too.

Crown dependencies



Geographical features



It has a total land area of 244,100 square kilometres. From north to south it is about 1,000 kilometres long.

The UK comes within 35 km of the northwest of France, and it is separated by the English Channel.

Some British lakes

Loch Morar is the deepest lake. It's 309 metres deep.



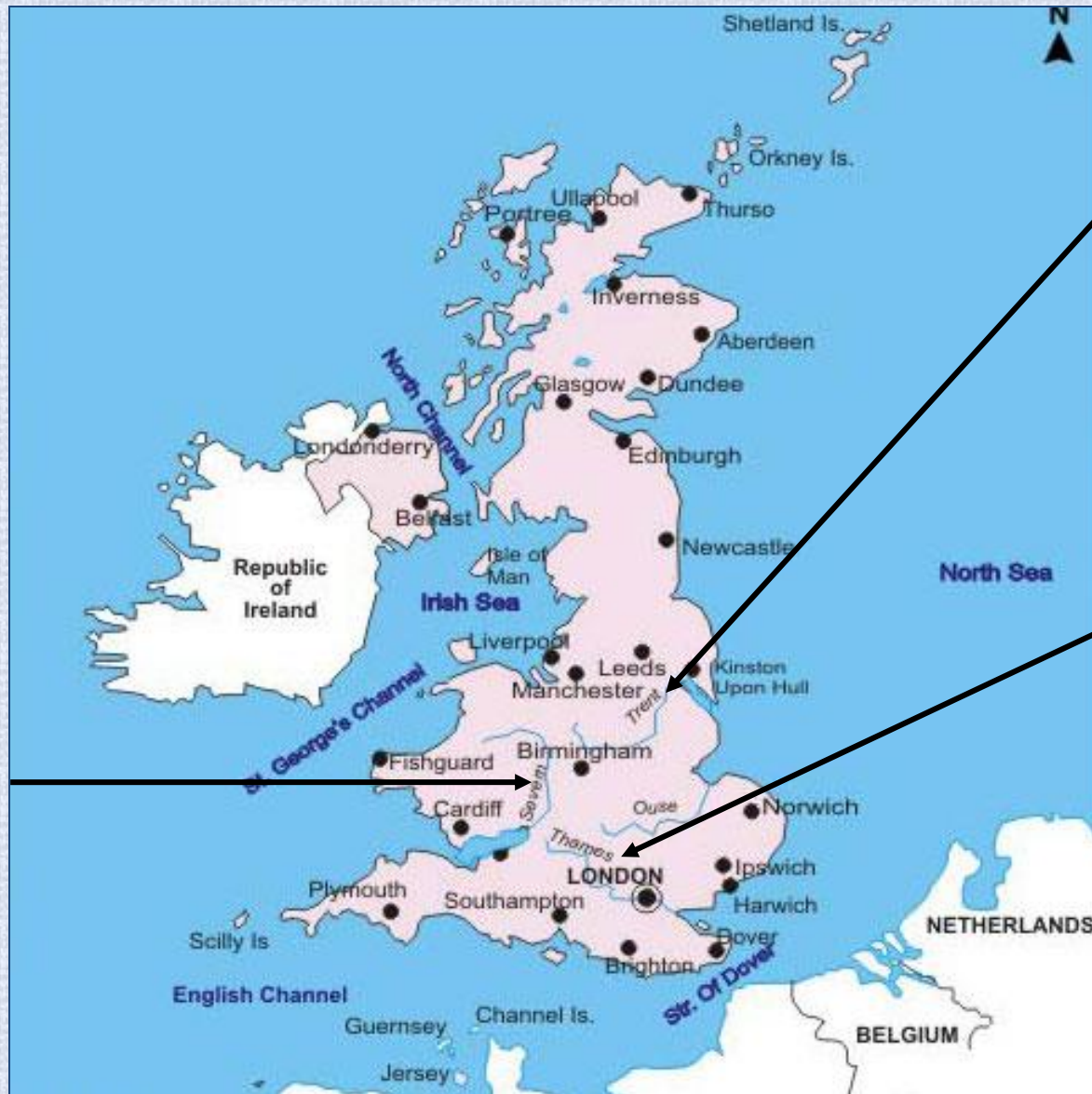
Loch Ness is the second deepest lake. It's 230 metres deep.



The Loch Ness monster lives in it!

The three longest rivers in the UK are

River Severn is the longest river in Great Britain. It's 354 km long.



River Trent is one of the major rivers in England. It's 297 Km long.

The Thames is a major river flowing through London. It's 346 km long.

British Mountains



The highest mountain in the UK is **Ben Nevis**. It's **1,344 m** high.



Ben Nevis is in Scotland.



The Pennine Range in northern England



The Cambrian Mountains in Wales



In the extreme south of England are the famous chalk hills, some of which form the Dover Cliffs.

Poetic and historical names

- Albion
- Erin
- Britannia
- Caledonia, Cambria, Hibernia





ENGLISH
HERITAGE

HADRIAN'S WALL

Hadrian's Wall is a stone wall built by the Romans to prevent military raids on Roman Britain by the Pictish tribes (ancient inhabitants of Scotland).





The symbolic
image of the
country





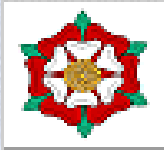


BRITANNIA



The typical
Briton:

JOHN BULL

3. A Bit of History

Romans	Anglo-Saxons	Vikings	Normans	Tudors	Victorians	WW II
						
43	450	793	1066	1485	1837	1939

It's an island!

- The sea is really important to British culture as well as the idea of sea power.
- British history is the history of a series of invasions from mainland Europe. Each successive wave brought advancement in technology and culture.



Overview of Invasions Pre-History-1066 A.D.

- 🌀 Neolithic people
- 🌀 Celts: up to 55 BC
- 🌀 Roman Conquest: 55 BC - 407 AD
- 🌀 Anglo-Saxon Period: 407 AD - 787 AD
- 🌀 Viking Invasions: 787 AD - 1066 A.
- 🌀 Norman Conquest: 1066 AD

Neolithic People

We know relatively little about the Stone Age inhabitants of Britain. Stone Age people means that they used mostly stone tools, had some farming, and lived in small settlements. One of the big mysteries is **Stonehenge**. What is it for? (astronomical clock? Showing off prominence? Temple?)



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

The Celts (600BC-50BC)

- 7th Century BC
- The British Isles were invaded by two groups of people from mainland Europe: Celts known as **Bythons** (now spelled Britons) and **Gaels** (who settled on the island now known as Ireland).
- The Celts were Pagans and their religion was known as “animism”, a Latin word for “spirit”. Druids were their priests.



The Romans (50 BC-400AD)

- Julius Caesar began invasion in **55 BC**, but the Roman occupation was completed in 43 AD under emperor Claudius.
- Built roads, towns, and more (Hadrian's Wall)
- Romans left Britain in 407 A.D. because Visigoths attacked Rome (this left Britain defenseless)





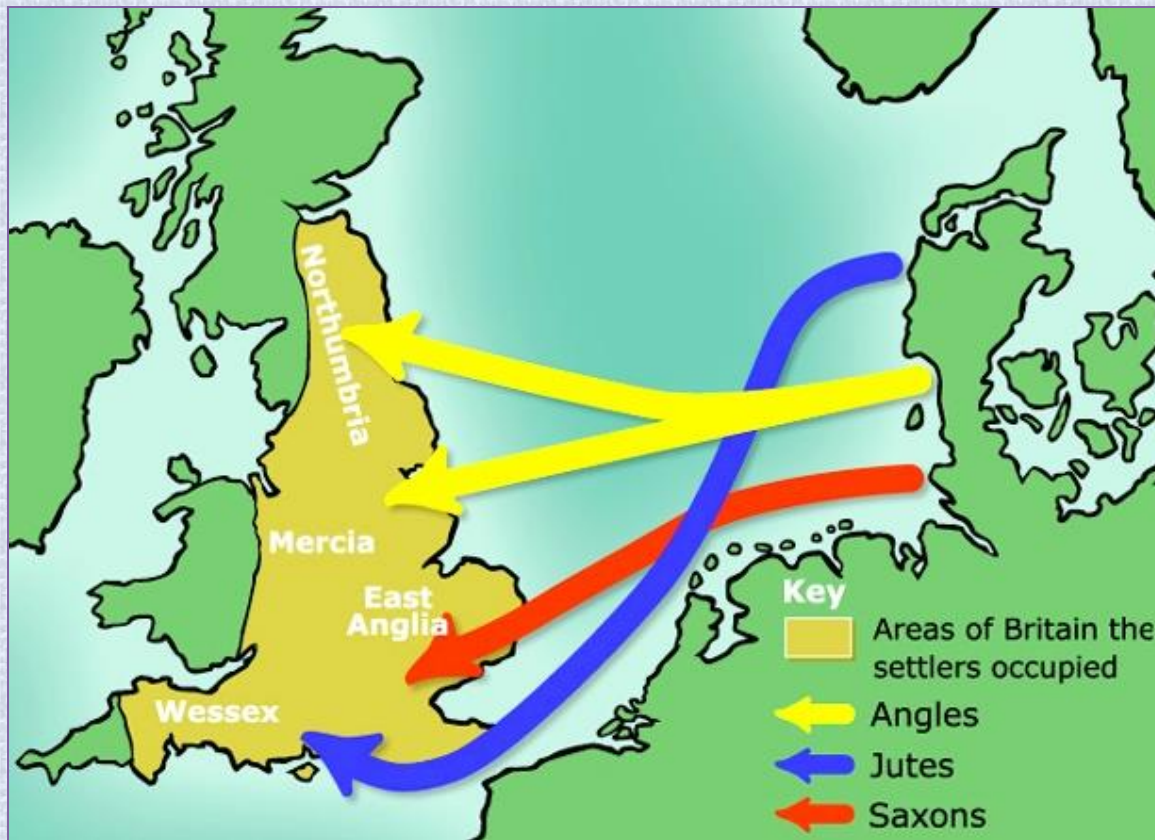
The Hadrian's Wall

The Most Important Results of the Roman Occupation

- ⑥ Established camps that eventually became towns.
- ⑥ Maintained relative peace.
- ⑥ **Latin** heavily influenced the English language.
- ⑥ Christianity begins to replace Paganism, especially after St. Augustine converts King Aethelbert in 597.

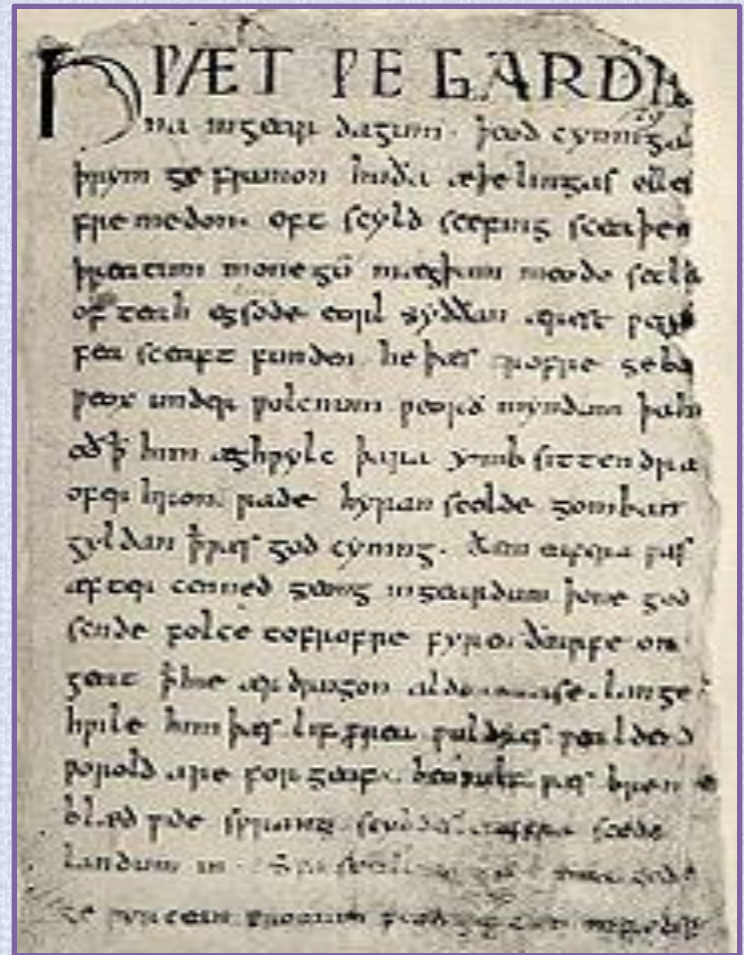
The Anglo-Saxons (407-787 AD)

The Roman army left Britain in about 410 AD. When they had gone there was no strong army to defend Britain, and tribes called the **Angles**, **Saxons**, and **Jutes** (the Anglo-Saxons) invaded the country. They came from Northern Europe.



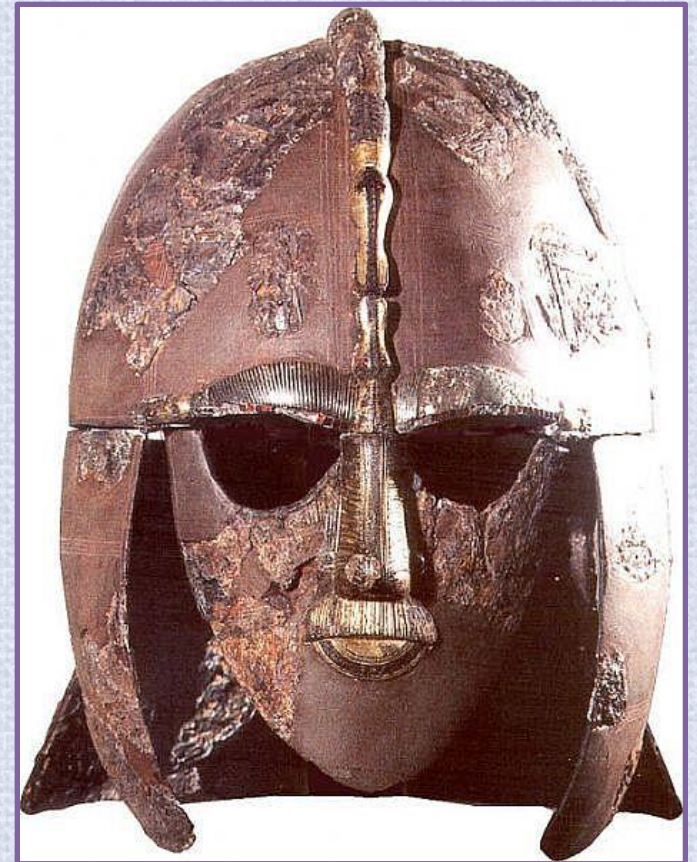
England= Angle-land

- This is the start of England as we know it.
- This is the start of English as a language. The Angles brought a version of early German with them, what we call **Old English**.

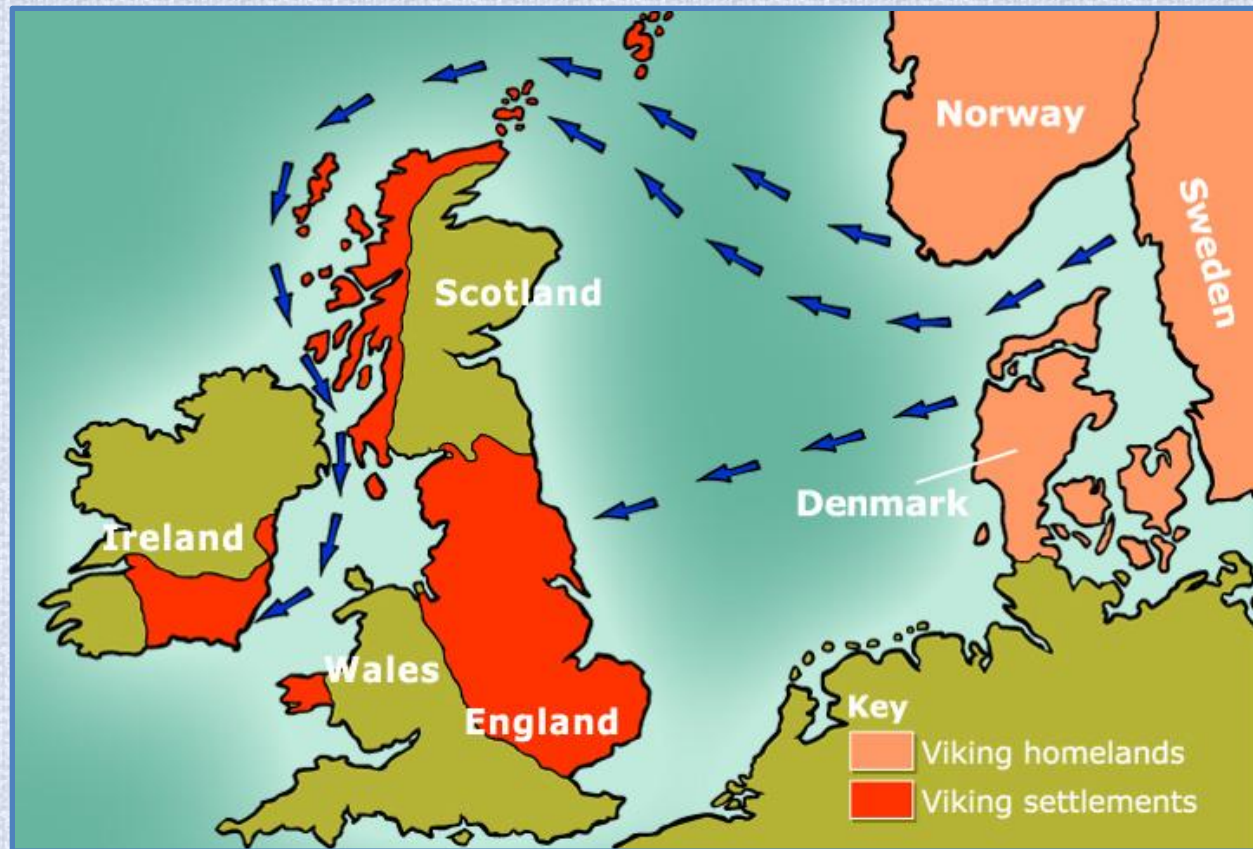


Anglo-Saxon Britain

- The Angles established various kingdoms and became Christian.
- Warriors were heavily admired. Fighting was a way of life.
- They also had to deal with the new invaders, Vikings!



The Vikings (787-1066 AD)



The Vikings' age in Britain began in the 8th century AD and lasted for almost 300 years. The Vikings had a lot of different religions.

The Normans (1066 AD)

- In 1066, William of Normandy or **William the Conqueror** invaded England (battle of Hastings) and set up a new kingdom.
- French became the official language. This was the start of **Middle English** as Norman French and Old English **mix**.
- The Normans built beautiful **castles**. William lived in the White Tower in London.



Who were the Normans?

- The Normans were originally Vikings (“North Men”) from Scandinavia
- They settled in a part of France called **Normandy**
- The Normans were the last people to successfully invade Britain

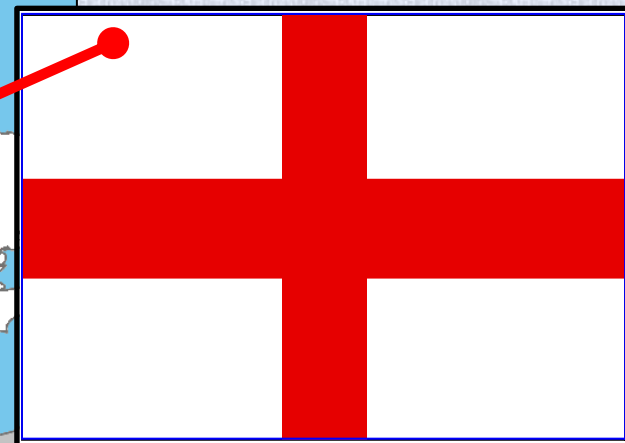
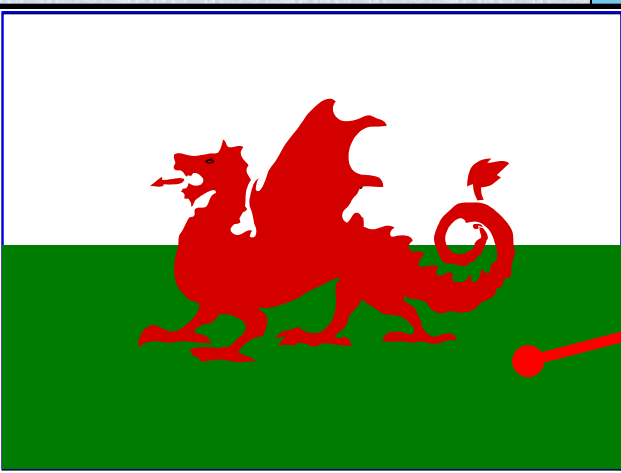
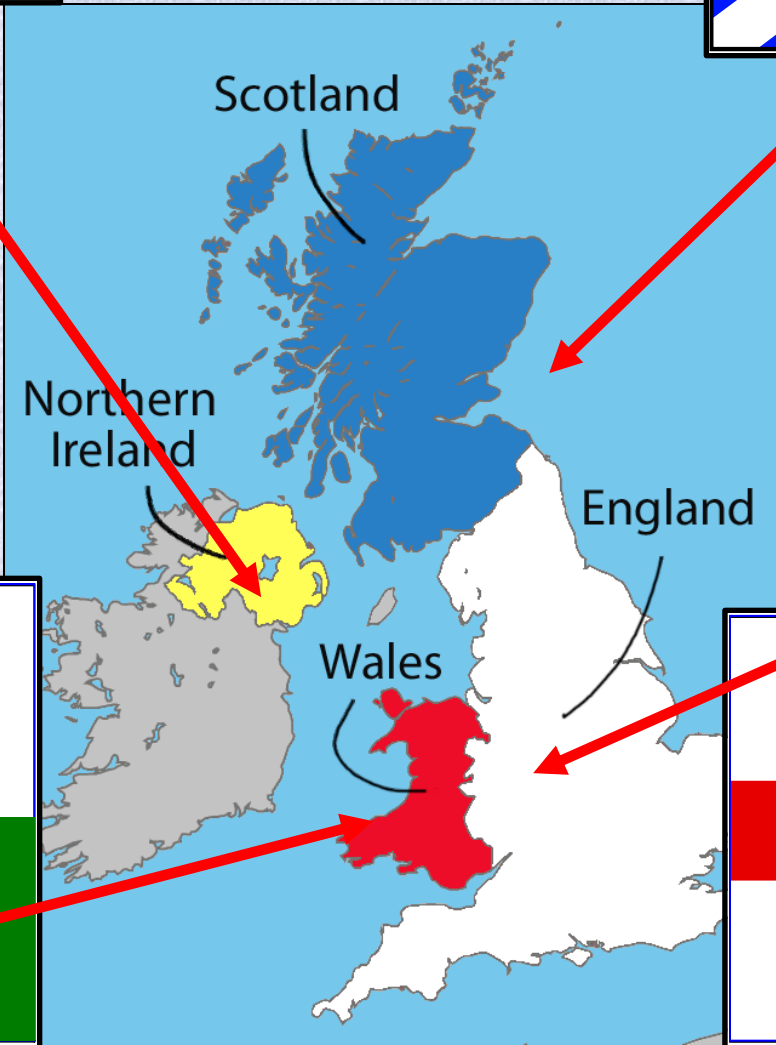
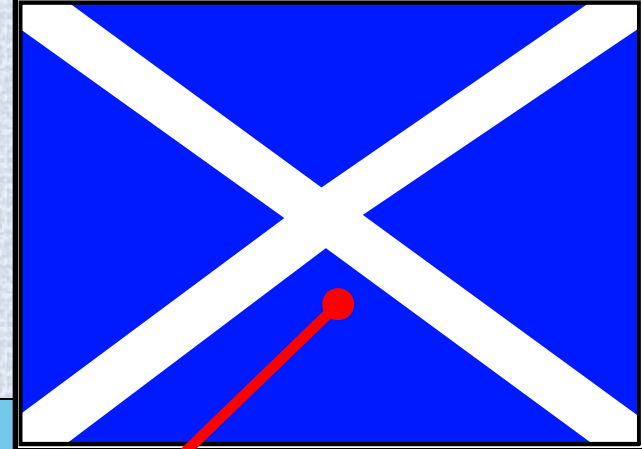
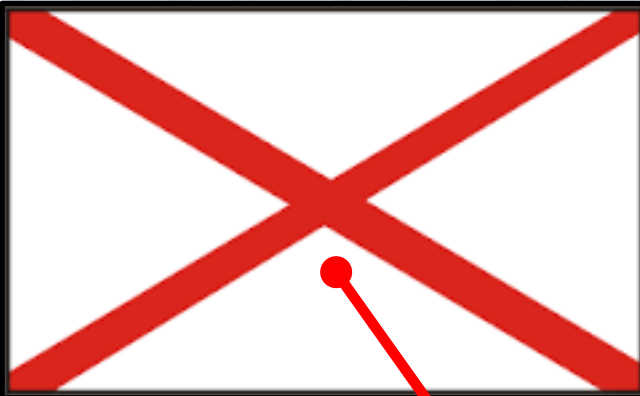


Late British History

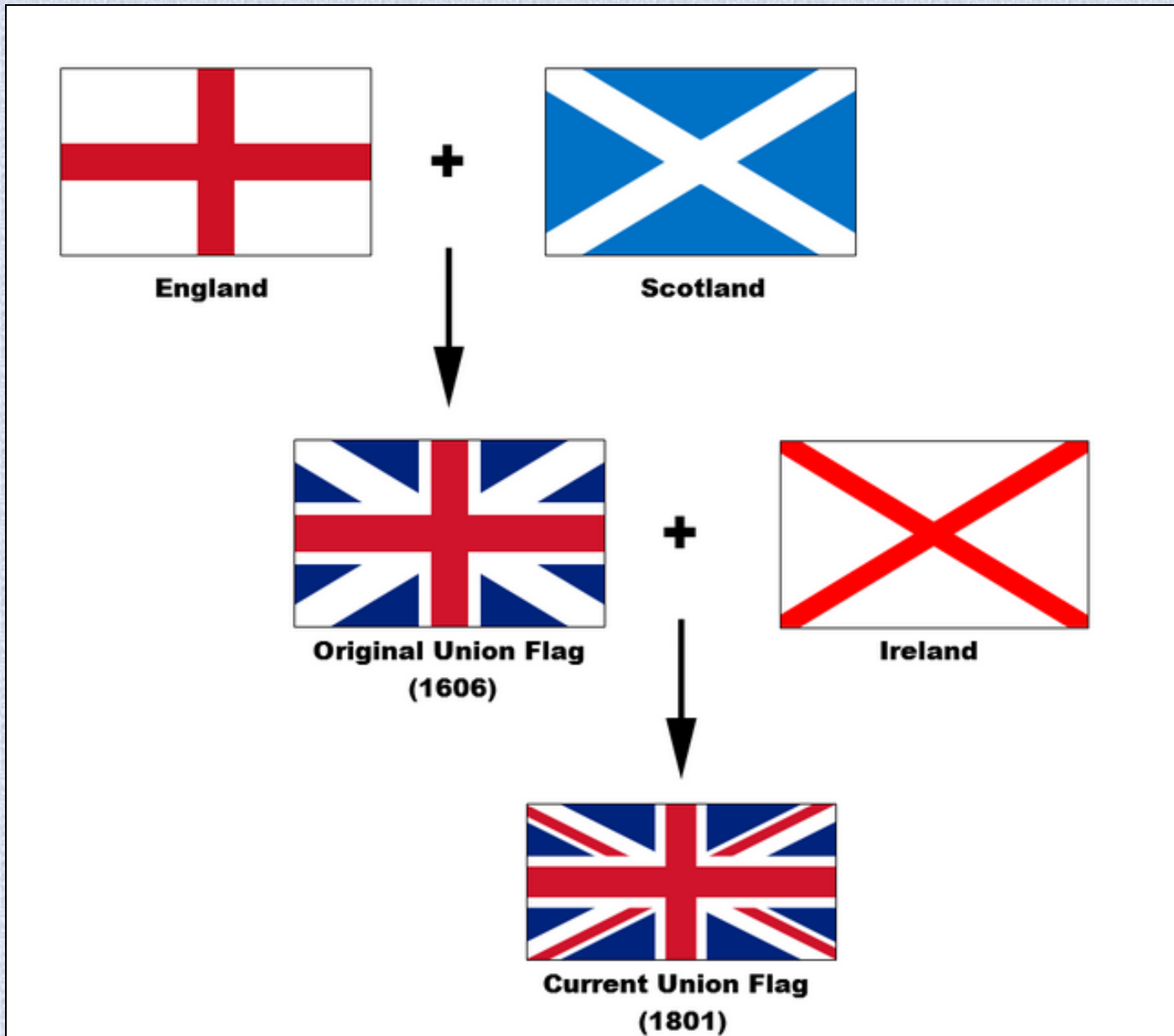
After the Normans, British history can be divided into “dynasties”

- Anglo-Normans (1066 – 1215)
- Middle Ages (1216 – 1347)
- Late Medieval (1348 – 1484)
- Tudors (1485 – 1602)
- Stuarts (1603 – 1713)
- Georgians (1714 – 1836)
- Victorians (1837 – 1900)

**A country of
many
countries**



The Union Jack



The United Kingdom



The United Kingdom:

England

Scotland

Wales

Northern
Ireland

4. THE FOUR NATIONS

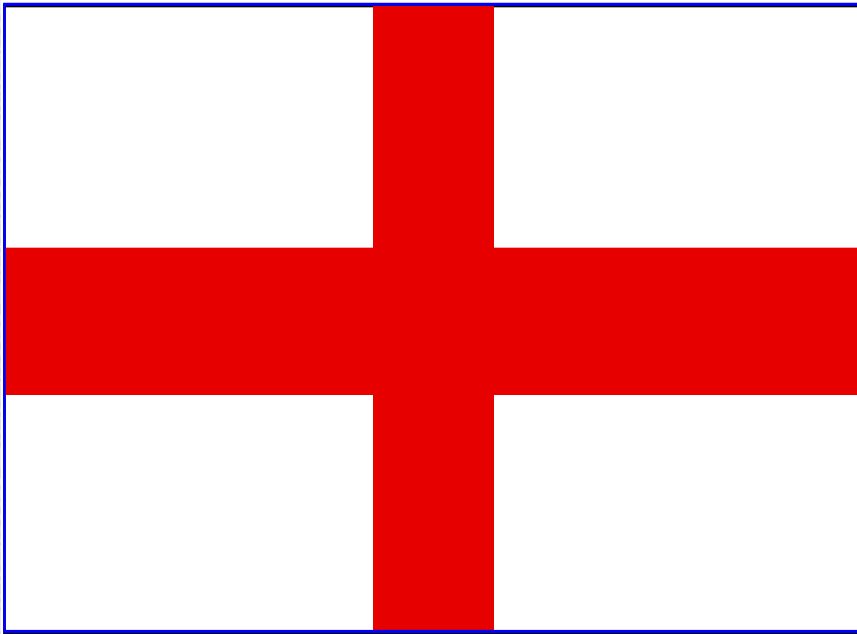
- ❖ At one time the four nations were distinct from each other in almost every aspect of life:
 - different races.
 - Ireland, Wales and highland Scotland – the Celtic race (spoke Celtic language: Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh).
 - England and lowland Scotland – Germanic origins (spoke Germanic dialects including the one which has developed into modern English).
 - different economic, social and legal systems.
- ❖ Today these differences have become blurred. But they have not completely disappeared.

Uk Factfile

- Capital: London
- Population: 67.33m (2021 estimate)
- Density: 270.7 sq. Km.
- Government: Parliamentary constitutional monarchy
- Monarch: Charles III
- Prime Minister: Rishi Sunak (24th Oct. 2022-)
- Currency: pound sterling (GBP)

Country: The UK	Capital London	Population ~ 63 mln (2011 census)	Language English	Poetic name
ENGLAND	London	~53 (56) mln	English	Britannia
SCOTLAND	Edinburgh	~5,2 (5,4) mln	Scottish Gaelic (1%); Scots	Caledonia
WALES	Cardiff	~3 (3,1) mln	Welsh (20%); Welsh accent	Cambria
N.IRELAND (ULSTER)	Belfast	~1,8 (1,9) mln	Irish Gaelic; Irish accent	Hibernia

England



England

- ❖ Capital: London
- ❖ Language: English
- ❖ Patron: St. George (April 23rd)
- ❖ Main Religions:
Protestant, Roman Catholic, Muslim, Hindu
- ❖ National symbol: the red rose





Wales



Wales

- ❖ Capital: Cardiff
- ❖ Languages: English, Welsh
- ❖ Patron: St. David (March 1st)
- ❖ Main Religions: Protestant and Roman Catholic
- ❖ National symbols: the leek and the daffodil

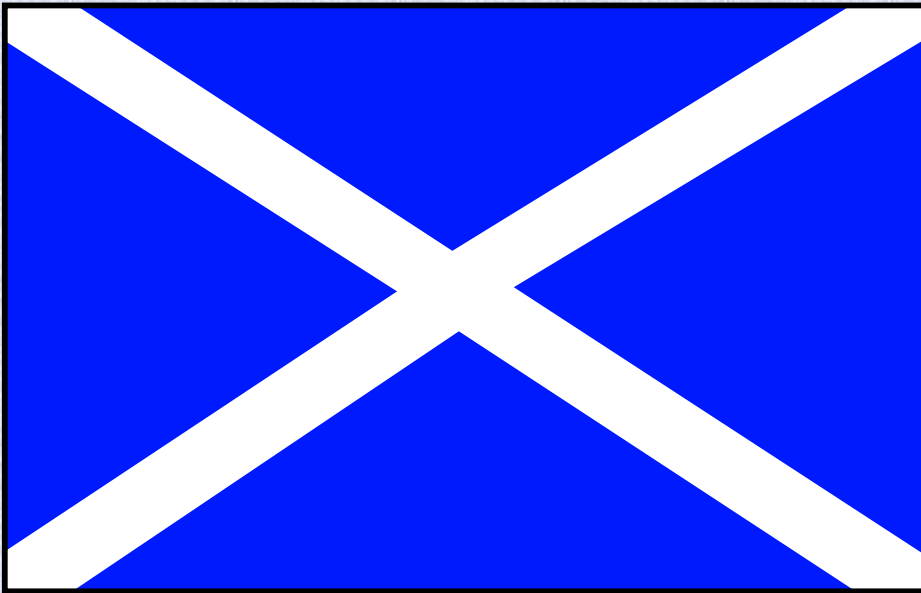




PEDESTRIANS
LOOK RIGHT
CERDDWYR
EDRYCHWCH
I'R CHWITH



Scotland



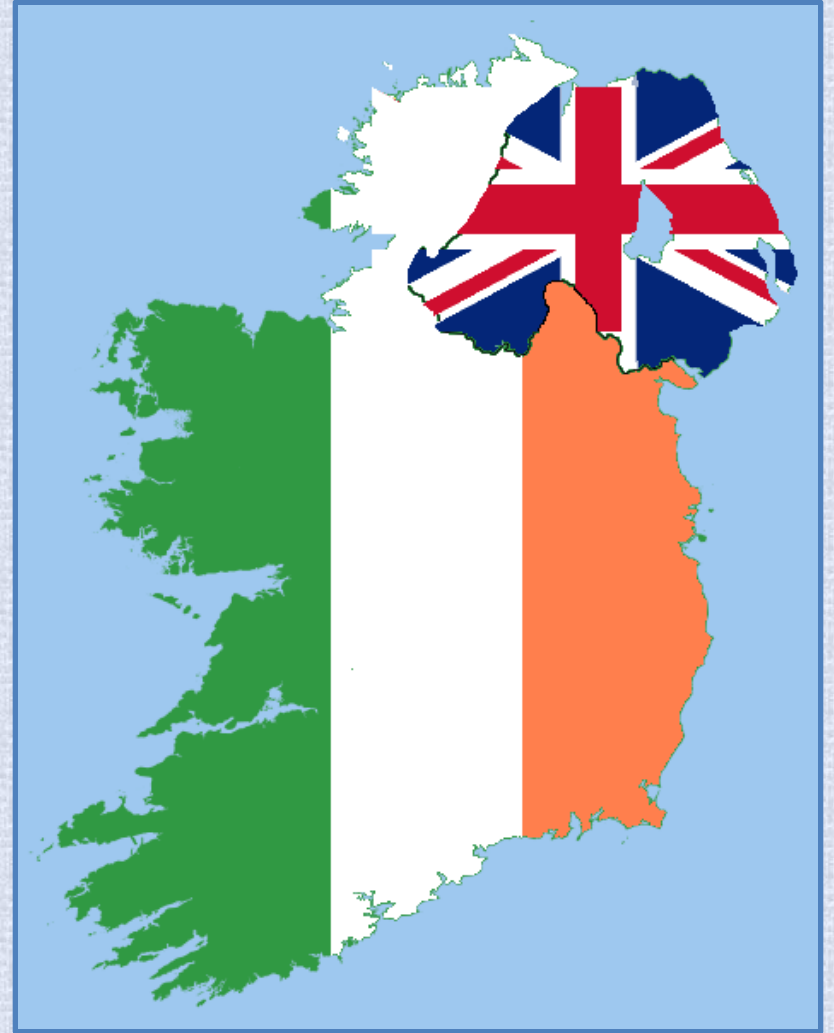
Scotland

- ❖ Capital: Edinburgh
- ❖ Languages: English, Scots, Scots Gaelic
- ❖ Patron: St. Andrew (November 30th)
- ❖ Main Religions: Protestant and Roman Catholic
- ❖ National symbol: the thistle





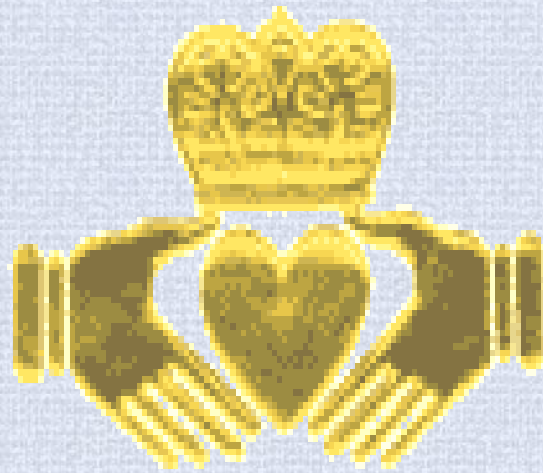
Ireland

















Northern Ireland

- ❖ Capital: Belfast
- ❖ Languages: English, Irish Gaelic
- ❖ Patron: St. Patrick (March 17th)
- ❖ Main Religions: Protestant and Roman Catholic
- ❖ National Symbols: the shamrock and the harp





	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland
Flag	 St George's Cross	 Dragon of Cadwallader	 St Andrew's Cross	 St Patrick's Cross
			 Lion rampant	 Republic of Ireland
Plant	 Rose	 Leek/Daffodil ¹	 Thistle	 Shamrock
Colour²				
Patron saint	St George	St David	St Andrew	St Patrick
Saint's day	23 April	1 March	30 November	17 March

5. THE DOMINANCE OF ENGLAND

- ❖ England – The **biggest** of the four countries making up the United Kingdom, and historically the **most powerful**.
- ❖ It cannot be denied that the dominant culture of Britain today is specifically English.
 - The system of politics that is used in all four nations today is of English origin, and English is the main language of all four nations.
 - Many aspects of everyday life are organized according to English custom and practice.

❖ Today English domination can be detected in the way in which various aspects of British public life are described.

- The supply of money in Britain is controlled by [the Bank of England](#).
- The late Queen of the country is universally known as [Elizabeth the Second](#), even though Scotland and Northern Ireland have never had an Elizabeth the First
- The term [Anglo](#) is also commonly used. Newspapers and the television news talk about “Anglo-American relations” to refer to relations between the governments of Britain and the US (and not just those between England and the US).

5. NATIONAL LOYALTIES

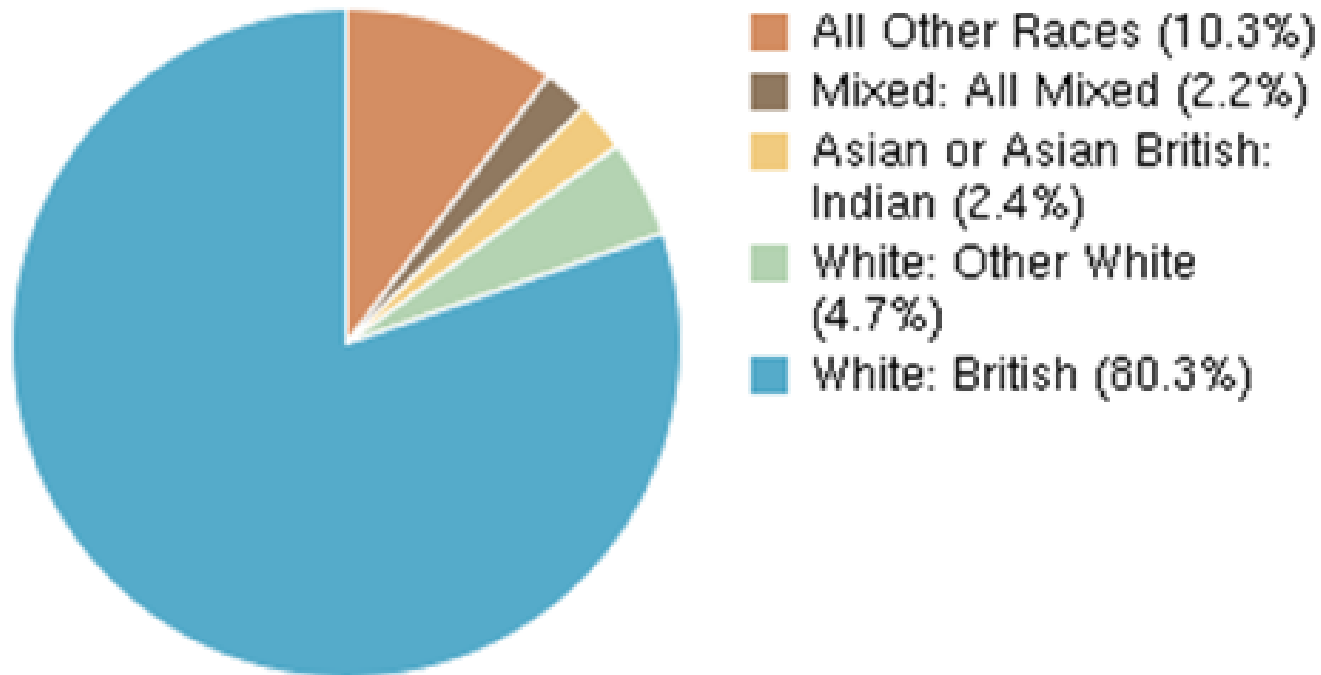
When you are talking to people from Britain, it is safest to use “**Britain**” when talking about where they live and “**British**” as the adjective to describe their nationality. This way you will be less likely to offend anyone.



These people support the country of their parents or grandparents rather than England in sporting contests.

There are millions of people who live in England but who would never describe themselves as “English”. They may have lived in England all their lives, but as far as they are concerned they are Scottish or Welsh or Irish; even if, in the last case, they are citizens of Britain and not of Eire.

2013 Race Demographics



The same holds true for the further millions of British citizens whose family origins lie outside the British Isles altogether. People of Caribbean or south Asian descent, for instance, do not mind being described as “British” (many are proud of it), but many of them would not like to be called “English”. And whenever the West Indian or Indian cricket team plays against England, it is certainly not England that they support!



- ❖ There is, in fact, **a complicated division of loyalties** among many people in Britain, and especially in England.
- ❖ A person whose family is from Ireland but who has always lived in England would want Ireland to beat England at football but would want England to beat (for example) Italy just as much.
- ❖ This **crossover** of loyalties can work the other way as well. English people do not regard the Scottish, the Welsh or the Irish as “foreigners” (or, at least, not as the same kind of foreigners as other foreigners).





Do the quiz and activities on pp. 9-10