

What is the where is it?

UK and

Firstly, UK stands for The United Kingdom. These islands are a country which belongs to Europe. It is situated in the North West of Europe. The UK is the meeting of four countries with different customs but a common language as the official language.

England + Scotland + Wales = Great Britain + Northern Ireland = the UK



As we can see on the map on the right, Northern Ireland, as it clearly appears, is north of the republic of Ireland and south west of Scotland.

As for Scotland it is north of England which is east of Wales.

The capital cities of each country are: London (England), Cardiff (Wales), Edinburgh (Scotland) and Belfast (Northern Ireland)

What about nationalities ?

Somebody who lives in Wales is Welsh but they have got a British passport because they are British. As for the language, they can speak both Welsh and English. Welsh is a Celtic language spoken by most people in Wales.



When a family lives in Scotland they're Scots and they're British too. Some people



still speak Scottish Gaelic which is another Celtic language.

People living in Northern Ireland are Irish but they've got a British passport because they've got the British nationality



English people are those living in England. They are English and they speak English. Like the three other English people, they also have the British nationality.



Flags and Symbols :

1) *Flags*

The British flag is composed of three different crosses.



It is called the Union Jack.



St George's Cross: The English flag



St Andrew's cross: The Scottish flag



St Patrick's Cross: The Irish flag (Northern Ireland)

The UK is composed of four countries but in the Union Jack there are only three countries represented. Indeed, Wales was part of England when the British flag was drawn. Nowadays Wales is independent and has got its own flag.



2) Symbols

Each Countries of the UK has a different vegetable symbol.



England,
The Rose



Scotland,
the Thistle



Wales,
the Leek



Northern Ireland,
the Shamrock

The different British institutions

The UK is a constitutional monarchy whose political power is mainly centred in London. A lot of decision are taken in the house of parliament (House of Commons and House of Lords.) Yet, each country has some independence within some institutions. Some powers are transferred from the UK parliament in London to assemblies in Cardiff and Belfast and the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh.

As far as Scotland and Wales are concerned, they are completely autonomous in institutions such as [agriculture, forestry and fishing](#); [education](#); [environment](#); [health](#); [fire service](#); [local government](#); [economic development](#)

As for Northern Ireland they are a bit less independent from the London power but they still have some freedom in [agriculture](#) ; [education](#) ; [environment](#) ; [health](#) ; [enterprise](#) ; [trade and investment](#) ; [social services](#) ; [justice and policing](#)

Who Benefits from the United Kingdom?

Throughout my life, I was always told that it was England who dominated the other countries of the United Kingdom and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland were disadvantaged. But recently in my dentist's waiting room I have read a very interesting article about the UK from an English point of view, which gave the English feelings about it. They were pretty unhappy. Everyone thinks England is dominating the three other countries, and in some ways, it is. But what you do not probably know is that Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, are taking decisions about England without asking its opinion. But this is not very important in their eyes. What concerns them is the gradual disappearance of their dear customs, such as pubs, tea time, and gentlemen clubs. This can be called Englishness, the quality of being English or being typically English, that is to say the way of behaving when you are English...



Multiculturalism in the United Kingdom

Firstly, I think it's a good idea to give a definition of multiculturalism. In my view, multiculturalism is when in a country lots of different communities live together and share their cultures, their traditions and their habits. That is the case in France and in the United Kingdom too. To give you an example, in the 20th century England knew lots of waves of immigrants such as in the 50s and 60s where three Asian communities (Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani) arrived in Britain. Or recently the Eastern European citizens who arrived in London with the intentions of searching for work.



Indian district in London



Chinatown in Paris

The
End