**The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**



**Basic Facts about the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

The United Kingdom is located in \_ \_ \_ \_ \_‑west Europe on the island of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and the northern part of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Ireland. It is made up of four countries: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The country’s political system is a constitutional monarchy, which means it has a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. At the moment the monarch is Queen Elizabeth II. The country has a temperate \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and is famous for its wet weather.

**Early History**

The first people to 1\_\_\_\_ the Br \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Is \_ \_ \_ were 2­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_ from Europe. They arrived between 3,500 BC and 3,000 BC and introduced farming, pottery and stone 3\_\_\_\_. They lived in the south of England. S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, a huge circle of standing stones, was 4\_\_\_\_by these early inhabitants. More settlers from Europe, principally the C \_ \_ \_ \_, started to invade Britain from the 10th century BC. As one of their 5\_\_\_\_ was called the Britons, the whole 6\_\_\_\_was named Britannia by the R \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ who occupied the country from 55 BC to the 5th century AD. The Angles and S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ came from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands in the 5th century, and England gets its name from this 7\_\_\_\_ (Angle-land).

The V \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ arrived from Scandinavia throughout the 9th century, and in 1066 the N \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ invaded from France. These invasions 8\_\_\_\_ the Celts into what is now W \_ \_ \_ \_ and S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, and they remained in I \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_. The Battle of H \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ changed the future of England as the Duke of Normandy became the king known as William the C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.

\_\_\_island \_\_ settlers \_\_ inhabit \_\_ tools ­­ \_\_ built \_\_ invasion \_\_ tribes \_\_ drove

**Famous Monarchs**

One of the best remembered kings is **\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ VIII** who had \_\_ wives. He was **well educated** and had the mind of a statesman. During his reign, Wales was brought into legal union with England, but he ruled as a true and **terrible autocrat**. After his quarrel with the P \_ \_ \_ and excommunication, the king became the h \_ \_ \_ of the newly established Church of England and declared its i \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ from Rome. His second and fifth wife were both **executed**.

**Elizabeth I**, a daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, ruled not by force, but by female **1diplomacy**. Many European kings wanted to control England but she **2remained unmarried**. The “Virgin Queen” kept them hoping and thus managed to **3keep peace** with their countries. Although in 1588 the Spanish Armada attempted to **4invade** England, it **5was defeated** by the **6British navy** led by Sir Francis Drake. Great voyages of discovery opened the world to English **7trade and conquest** during Elizabeth’s reign. Sir Walter Raleigh, who explored the eastern coast of North America, **8founded** the first English colony there and called it Virginia **9in honour** of the Queen.

\_\_ not to make war

\_\_ political negotiation

\_\_ established

\_\_ British warships

\_\_ stay unwedded

\_\_ with respect and admiration

\_\_ conquer

\_\_ was crushed

\_\_ business and invasion

1. Another **monarch** who gave her
2. She came to the **throne** in
3. The **Victorian age** was remarkable for
4. Industry was replacing
5. Many schools
6. Queen Victoria **reigned**
7. She was the first monarch

\_\_ agriculture as the basis of the economy.

\_\_ name to an age was **Queen Victoria**.

\_\_ were built.

\_\_ 1837 at the age of eighteen.

\_\_ the expansion in wealth and power in Britain.

­­\_\_ to live in **Buckingham Palace**.

\_\_ for 64 years.

**Geography**

The United Kingdom, also called the U.K., c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of a **group of islands** off the northwest c \_ \_ \_ \_ of Europe. It is a unique country **made up of** \_\_ nations: England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. England, Wales, and Scotland also make up G \_ \_ \_ \_ B \_ \_ \_\_ \_ \_. Much of the north and west of the U.K. is covered in high ground, knife-edged **mountain ridges** **separated by** deep v \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_. This **terrain** was shaped in the last Ice Age, when thick g \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ covered the land. In the south of England, the c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ is mostly **rolling hills**.

In northwest England and the **Scottish Highlands** are dozens of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , called lochs. These were left behind when the Ice Age glaciers m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_. They tend to be long and **narrow**, and some are very deep. Legends say that a giant monster called Nessie lives in **Loch Ness** in Scotland.

**Political System**

Britain is a **c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_** with Queen \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ II as the **Head of State**. Parliament, also known as Westminster as it is housed in the P \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of Westminster, has two chambers with l \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ power: The House \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (lower house) and the **House of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_** (upper house). The m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of the **House of Commons**, called **MPs**, are e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ every 5 years. The leader of the party which wins the most **seats** in the general election becomes **P \_ \_ \_ \_ M \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_** and forms the **Government** which has e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ power. **Peers** in the House of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ are not e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ but **appointed** by the Queen usually on the Prime Ministers’ advice. **Unlike** MPs, Lords are not only unelected but also **unpaid.**

There are also 12 **Law** Lords who form the **S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_** : they can return to the House of Lords when they retire from the Court.

Since 1951, Queen Elizabeth II has been Head of State of the UK and 15 other C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ countries. She is also Head of the A \_ \_ \_ \_ Forces, and Head of the C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of England. In reality, her role is mostly **symbolic**: she represents her country, is a symbol of national unity and performs many **official duties**.

**British Flag**

The British flag, popularly known as the U \_ \_ \_ \_ J \_ \_ \_ , is made up of the \_ \_ \_ cross of Saint **George** (patron saint of England), the white cross of Saint **A \_ \_ \_ \_ \_** (patron saint of Scotland), and the diagonal red cross of Saint **Patrick** (patron saint of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ) The design dates from 1801 when Great Britain and Ireland united to form the United Kingdom. The patron saint of Wales is Saint \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . The Welsh dragon does not appear on the flag as Wales was already united with England from the 13th century.

**Royal Family**

Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain is the **longest-reigning** **monarch** in British history. She celebrated 65 years on the throne in February 2017 with her Sapphire **Jubilee**. She is married to Prince Philip and has four children. Elizabeth II is the mother of [Prince Charles](http://www.biography.com/people/prince-charles-9244936), **heir** to the throne, as well as the grandmother of princes [William](http://www.biography.com/people/prince-william-9542068) and [Harry](http://www.biography.com/people/prince-harry-9542035).

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

    

   

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Basic facts about the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

north; Great Britain; island; England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; parliament and monarch; climate.

**Early History**

1settle; *British Isles*; 2settlers; 3tools; *Stonehenge*; 4built; *Celts*; 5tribes; 6island; **Romans; Saxons**; 7invasion; *Vikings; Normans*; 8drove; *Wales and Scotland; Ireland*; *Hastings*; *Conqueror.*

**Famous Monarchs**

Henry; 6; Pope; head; independence

1political negotiation; 2stay unwedded; 3not to make war; 4conquer; 5was crushed; 6British warships; 7business and invasion; 8established

1 - name to an age was Queen Victoria; 2 - 1837 at the age of eighteen; 3 – the expansion in wealth and power in Britain; 4 – agriculture as the basis of the economy; 5 – were built; 6 – for 64 years; 7 – to live in Buckingham Palace.

**Geography**

consists; coast; 4; Great Britain; valleys; glaciers; countryside; lakes; melted.

**Political System**

constitutional monarchy; Elizabeth; Palace; legislative; Commons; Lords; members; elected; Prime Minister; executive; Lords; elected; Supreme Court; Commonwealth; Armed; Church.

**British Flag**

Union Jack; red; Andrew; Ireland; David.

**Royal Family**

1 – Diana, Princess of Wales; 2 – Queen Elizabeth II; 3 - Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall; 4 - KateMiddleton, now known asCatherine, The Duchess of Cambridge; 5 - Meghan Markle, now known as Meghan, Duchess of Sussex

1 - Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex; 2 - Prince William, Duke of Cambridge; 3 - Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; 4 - Charles, Prince of Wales



 Prince George of Cambridge Princess Charlotte of Cambridge Prince Louis of Cambridge