



The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) is made up of four countries. England and Wales united in 1284. Then, Scotland became part of the union in 1707 and Northern Ireland in 1921. Together, England, Wales and Scotland are known as Great Britain. Northern Ireland is part of the island of Ireland. The flag of the United Kingdom is called the Union Flag and is red, white and blue. When flown at sea, the flag is known as the Union Jack.

The UK belongs to the continent of Europe.

There are several seas that surround the UK, these are:

- Irish Sea
- Atlantic Ocean
- North Sea
- English Channel

The United Kingdom is part of the British Isles.

The British Isles is a group of islands (archipelago) that consists of Great Britain and more than 6000 smaller islands.



### Key Vocabulary

**united:** joined together

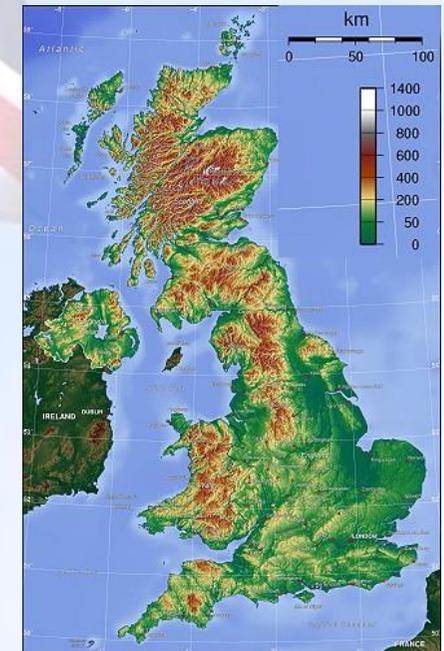
**union:** the joining together of different groups

**monarchy:** the king or queen and royal family

**democratic:** relating to a form of government in which people choose the leaders by voting

**government:** the group of people who make the laws in a country

**archipelago:** a group of islands





England is the largest country in the United Kingdom.

England's population is estimated to be around 55.5 million.

The flag of England is called the St George's cross, which is named after its patron saint, St George.

**Key Vocabulary**

**population:** all the people who live in a place

**resembles:** looks like

**peak:** the pointed top of a mountain

**migrated:** moved from one place to another

**refugees:** people forced to leave their country because it is not safe to stay there



Scotland is one of the four countries of the United Kingdom and has an estimated population of 5.5 million.

The capital city of Scotland is Edinburgh. Scotland contains many cities as well as vast rural areas too.

The national flag is the Saltire or St Andrew's Cross, named after its patron saint, St Andrew.

**Key Vocabulary**

**emblem:** badge or symbol

**archipelago:** a group of islands **peak:** the pointed top of a mountain

**munros:** mountains over 3000 feet (914 metres)

**legend:** a story from long ago which may or may not be true

**remote:** far away and hard to get to

**inhabitants:** people living in a place



Wales is one of the four countries of the United Kingdom with an estimated population of 3 million.

Wales has six cities and many rural areas. The capital city of Wales is Cardiff.

The national flag is the Red Dragon and the Patron Saint is St David.

**Key Vocabulary**

**rural:** relating to the countryside

**counties:** Wales now has local authorities but in the past it had counties (which have been kept for some purposes)

**tourism:** providing services for people on holiday



Northern Ireland is one of the four countries of the United Kingdom and has an estimated population of just under 2 million.

Northern Ireland has five cities and many rural areas.

The capital city of Northern Ireland is Belfast.

The national flag is the Union Flag of the UK but the Ulster Banner is used at sporting events. It shares its emblem, the clover leaf, and its patron saint, St Patrick, with Ireland.

**Key Vocabulary**

**Gaelic:** the traditional Irish language **emblem:** badge or symbol

**causeway:** a pathway

**hexagonal columns:** long, six-sided shapes

**conflict:** a serious disagreement, sometimes involving violence