

# The Great Britain

English speaking world

# A country of 5500 islands

- Situated in Western Europe on 2 big and 5500 small islands
- 4 parts: England (London), Wales (Cardiff), Scotland (Edinburgh) and Northern Ireland (Belfast)
- Washed by 2 seas (North and Irish) and 1 channel (English Channel).
- 2 main rivers: Severn – the longest, Thames – the most important and famous.
- Climate is humid and oceanic with warm winter (+5) and warm summer (+25)

# GB is twice as small as France or Spain

1. The country has an area of 244000 sq. km with population of about 60 million people. It takes the 17th place in the world in terms of population.
2. More than 50 million people live in England.
3. Union Jack (3 crosses national flag) symbolizes the unity of 3 saints: the upright red one for St. George (patron saint of England), the white one for St. Andrew (patron saint of Scotland), the diagonal red for St. Patrick (patron saint of Ireland).
4. The largest cities: London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, Southampton

# Britons were those people who inhabited GB many centuries ago

- In 50s England was called Britain and people who lived there were called Britons.
- Julius Caesar invaded British Isles in 55.
- Romans left the country in the 5<sup>th</sup> century.
- From the 5<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century present GB was invaded by different nations:

Anglo-saxons (the 4<sup>th</sup> century)

vikings (the 8<sup>th</sup>)

- 100 Years War (1337-1457) between Britain and France in which France won, made British and French people treat each other unfriendly until present time.
- 2 times terrible plague killed many people in GB:

1. In 1348

2. In 1665

- Famous royal dynasties:

The Yorkists

The Lancastrians

The Tudors

The Stuarts

Georgian Period (1714-1830) – 4 kings under the name George

# Monarchy and freedom

- GB is a constitutional monarchy with the Queen as the head of the state.
- The UK is famous for its unwritten constitution.
- The country is governed by the 2 chamber Parliament.
- The executive power is exercised by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet (20 members) appointed by the Queen.
- There are 2 parties: Labor and Conservative

# Where to go and what to see

- In London – Buckingham Palace, National Gallery, National Museum, Stock Exchange, the House of Parliament, Westminster Palace, Downing street 10, the British Museum, Madam Tussaud's Museum, Sherlock Holmes Museum, Tower of London, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Harrods and many, many other
  - In Birmingham – University, Town Hall
  - In Oxford – Oxford University (800 years old), Ashmolean Museum, the Christ Picture Gallery, Museum of History of Science
  - In Cambridge – Museum of Archeology and Anthropology, Cambridge University, Fitzwilliam Museum, Folk Museum
- Stratford-on-Avon – Ann Hathaway's Cottage, Holy Trinity Church, Butterfly farm, Teddy Bear Museum
- In Liverpool - Beatles' places, University, 7 miles of docks

# Holidays and traditions

- Bank Holidays=all public holidays like
- Christmas, Easter Monday, May Day, Boxing day
- Historic Holidays
- Gardening & animals

# Outstanding people

- Isaac Newton, Michel Faraday, Charles Darwin
- Shakespeare, Burns, Dickens, Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, Byron, Tolkien,
- Cromwell, Churchill, Thatcher, Diana (Princess of Wales)
- Lennon, Sting, McCartney, Colin Firth, Jude Law, Hugh Grant, Elton John, David Beckham







