



English presentation
Geographical situation , climate ,
government of Great Britain

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Geographical situation

Situated in north-western Europe, lying to the north of France and west of the Netherlands (1) and Denmark (2), the United Kingdom, known popularly as Great Britain, is 244,786 sq. km (94,512 sq. miles). It is situated on the British Isles. There are 5,500 islands. The two main islands are Great Britain and Ireland. The British Isles are separated from Europe by the Strait of Dover and the English Channel. The British Isles are washed by the North Sea in the East and the Atlantic Ocean in the West. The territory of Great Britain is divided into Lowland Britain and Highland Britain. Low-land Britain comprises Southern and Eastern England. Highland Britain includes Scotland.. Wales, the Pennines and the Lake District. As well the territory of Great Britain is divided into four parts: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. England is in the southern and central part of Great Britain. Scotland is in the north of the island. Wales is in the west. Northern Ireland is situated in the north-eastern part of Ireland.





England is the richest, the most fertile and most populated part in the country. The main territory is a vast plain. In the north-western part of it there are many beautiful lakes. This part is called Lake District, which is an isolated compact mountain group to the west of the Pennines.


Scotland is a land of mountains. The Highlands of Scotland are among the oldest mountains in the world. The chain of mountains in Scotland is called the Grampians. Its highest peak is Ben Nevis. In England there is the Pennine Chain. In Wales there are the Cumbrian Mountains.



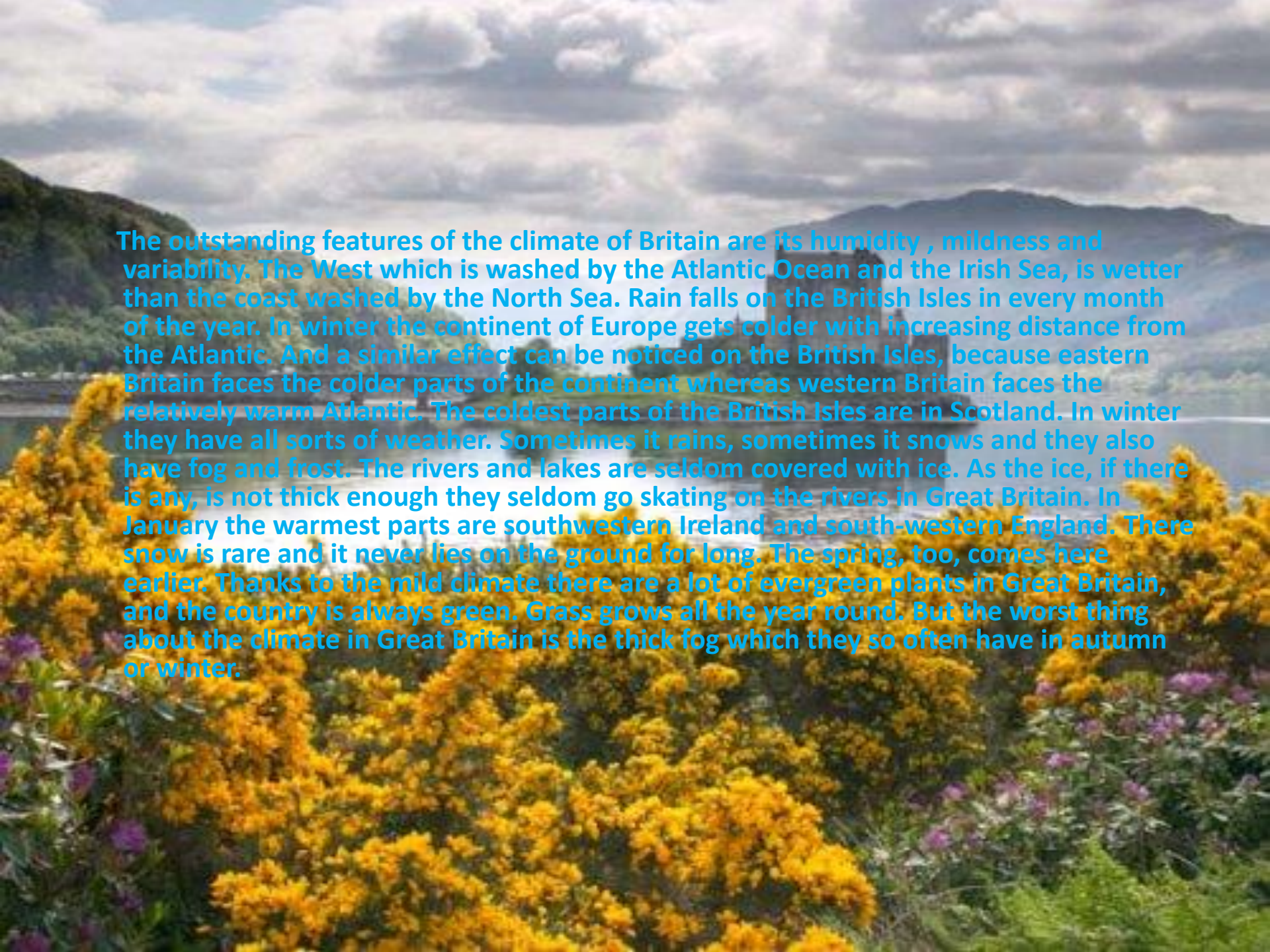
The British Isles have many rivers but they are not very long. The longest of them is the Severn. It flows into the Irish Sea. The most important river in Scotland is the Clyde. Glasgow stands on it. The Thames is the widest river in Great Britain. It is over 200 miles long. London, the capital of Great Britain, is situated on it. The population of Great Britain is over 56 million . The Greater London — the largest centre of industry, the most important centre of office employment and the capital city — is the largest of all cities in Great Britain. Other largest cities of the country are: Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh



The climate



The climate of Great Britain is the favorite conversational topic in England, a topic of conversation that other people do not find so interesting. In Great Britain it is possible to be in the open air during the whole year, because of the sea, which keeps the island warm in winter and makes the air cool in summer. The winds also greatly influence upon the weather in Great Britain. They blow from the south-west two days out of every three. But warm winds that blow from the Atlantic are as wet as they are warm. They also bring plenty of rain to the island. Rain is fairly well distributed throughout the year: June is the driest month all over England, May is the next driest in the east and centre of England, but April is drier in parts of the west and north. The wettest months are usually October, December and August. The east and north-east winds are cold and dry. Summers are not too hot and winters are not too cold.




The outstanding features of the climate of Britain are its humidity, mildness and variability. The West which is washed by the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea, is wetter than the coast washed by the North Sea. Rain falls on the British Isles in every month of the year. In winter the continent of Europe gets colder with increasing distance from the Atlantic. And a similar effect can be noticed on the British Isles, because eastern Britain faces the colder parts of the continent whereas western Britain faces the relatively warm Atlantic. The coldest parts of the British Isles are in Scotland. In winter they have all sorts of weather. Sometimes it rains, sometimes it snows and they also have fog and frost. The rivers and lakes are seldom covered with ice. As the ice, if there is any, is not thick enough they seldom go skating on the rivers in Great Britain. In January the warmest parts are southwestern Ireland and south-western England. There snow is rare and it never lies on the ground for long. The spring, too, comes here earlier. Thanks to the mild climate there are a lot of evergreen plants in Great Britain, and the country is always green. Grass grows all the year round. But the worst thing about the climate in Great Britain is the thick fog which they so often have in autumn or winter.

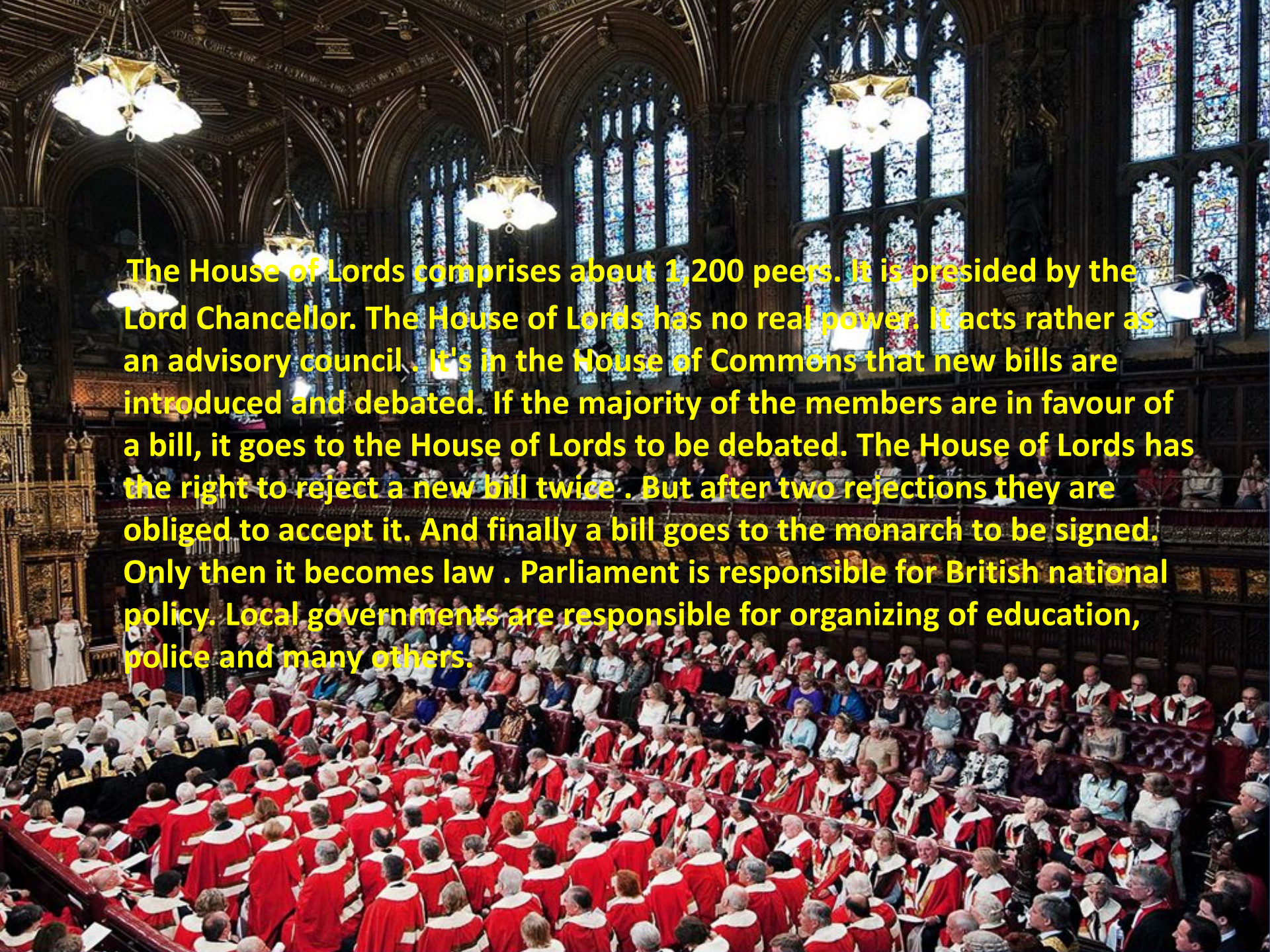
The government

A photograph of Queen Elizabeth II wearing the Crown Jewels, including the St Edward's Crown and the Robe of State. She is seated on an ornate golden throne in a grand, gilded room. The background features intricate carvings and gold leaf decorations.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a constitutional monarchy. It means that the sovereign reigns but does not rule . Britain does not have a written constitution, but a set of laws . Parliament is the most important authority in Britain. Technically Parliament is made up of three parts: the Monarch, the House of Lords; and the House of Commons. In reality the House of Commons is the only one of the three which has true power . The monarch serves formally as head of state. But the monarch is expected to be politically neutral and should not make political decisions . The present sovereign is Queen Elizabeth II. She was crowned in Westminster Abbey in 1953. The House of Commons consists of Members of Parliament. There are 650 of them in the House of Commons. They are elected by secret ballot. General elections are held every five years. The country is divided into 650 constituencies. All citizens, aged 18 and registered in a constituency, have the right to vote. But voting is not compulsory in Britain. Only persons convicted of corrupt and certain mentally ill patients don't take part in voting .



There are few political parties in Britain thanks to the British electoral system. The main ones are: the Conservative Party, the Labor Party and the Liberal / Social Democratic Alliance . The one who wins the most votes is elected MP for that area . The party which wins the most seats in Parliament forms the Government. Its leader becomes the Prime Minister. His first job is to choose his Cabinet. The Prime Minister usually takes policy decisions with the agreement of the Cabinet . The functions of the House of Commons are legislation and scrutiny of government activities. The House of Commons is presided over by the Speaker. The Speaker is appointed by the Government .



The House of Lords comprises about 1,200 peers. It is presided by the Lord Chancellor. The House of Lords has no real power. It acts rather as an advisory council. It's in the House of Commons that new bills are introduced and debated. If the majority of the members are in favour of a bill, it goes to the House of Lords to be debated. The House of Lords has the right to reject a new bill twice. But after two rejections they are obliged to accept it. And finally a bill goes to the monarch to be signed. Only then it becomes law. Parliament is responsible for British national policy. Local governments are responsible for organizing of education, police and many others.

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