

Lesson 1

Тема 1: The Geographical Position and Nature of Great Britain. Basic Facts

REVISION SECTION:

✓ The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK) is the official name of the state, which is situated on the British Isles. This state is also called **Great Britain** after the main island with the same name. The UK consists of four countries, which are **England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland**. Their capitals are **London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast**.

✓ Everyone who was born in Britain is **British**. People from England are **English**. People from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are not English. They are **Scottish or the Scots, Welsh and Irish**.

Languages/ Языки

Everyone in Britain speaks **English**. But in some parts of Scotland and Wales people speak different languages as well. The Welsh are especially proud of their language. They like to speak **Welsh**, to sing songs in Welsh and when you travel you can see road signs in Welsh all over Wales. Everyone in the UK speaks **English** but they all speak it differently. A Scottish person has to listen carefully if he wants to understand a Londoner or a Welsh person.

The Scottish people speak **Gaelic** [ˈgeɪlɪk] (гаэльский, язык шотландских кельтов).

State Symbol / Государственный символ !!!!

The flag of the United Kingdom is known as the **Union Jack**. It is made up of three crosses: the cross of St. George (the patron saint of England), the cross of St. Andrew (the patron saint of Scotland) and the cross of St. Patrick (the patron saint of Ireland).



It is important to know!!!!!!

- Не путайте произношение слов:
 - ✓ **isle** [aɪl], **island** [ˈaɪlənd] — остров,
 - ✓ **Ireland** [ˈaɪələnd] — Ирландия.
- Перед названиями морей, океанов и рек ставится определенный артикль **the**.



Vocabulary:

to consist of	состоять из
to be divided into	быть разделенным на
to occupy	занимать (территорию, часть...)
to be washed by	омываться
coast	побережье, берег; прибрежный район
to separate	отделять, разграничивать, разделять
comparatively	сравнительно, относительно; для сравнения
a surface	поверхность
lofty (=high)	высокий; возвышенный
wet	сырой
by means of	посредством; благодаря; при помощи
principal (=main = chief)	главный, основной
a length	длина

Vocabulary:

a current	ПОТОК, течение
a vessel (=ship)	судно
shallow	мелкий
an advantage	преимущество
a shore	берег (моря, озера)
a harbour	гавань
to serve	служить (выполнять роль, функцию)





Geographical Names

1. The British Isles - Британские острова
2. Ireland - Ирландия
3. The United Kingdom - Соединённое Королевство
4. Wales - Уэльс
5. Scotland - Шотландия
6. The English Channel – пролив Ла-Манш
7. The Irish Sea – Ирландское море
8. The Strait of Dover - Дуврский пролив, Па-де-Кале
9. The Severn - р. Северн
10. The Cambrian mountains - Кембрийские горы
11. The Cheviot Hills - Чевииот-Хилз
12. The Pennines – Пеннинские горы
13. The Cumbrian - Камберлендские горы
14. Portsmouth – Портсмут



Task 1. Read and translate the text:

The Geographical Position and Nature of Great Britain

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland consists of the Island of Great Britain and the northern part of the Island of Ireland (the southern part of which is the Republic of Eire) and a number of small islands especially to the west of Scotland. The country is usually called simply Great Britain.

The Island of Great Britain is divided into three parts – England, Wales and Scotland. England and Wales form the southern part of the island and Scotland occupies its northern part.

From the west Great Britain is washed by the Atlantic Ocean, from the east by the stormy North Sea and the southern coast is washed by the English Channel (which separates Great Britain from the continent), the narrower part of which being called the Strait of Dover. It is quite close to the continent, being only 22 miles wide.

Being comparatively small Britain is known for a variety of scenery found on such a small area. One can find here both a low-lying land and hilly areas, flat fields as well as lofty mountains. The surface of Eastern England is flat. Scotland and Wales are hilly and mountainous. The mountains are not very high as compared with those of the world, the loftiest one – Ben Nevis (Scotland) being only 4400 feet (1343 m) in height.

In the west we can see the Cambrian Mountains occupying the greater part of Wales; in the north – the Cheviot Hills separating England from Scotland; the Pennines – to the south of the Cheviot Hills and Cumbrian Mountains famous for the number and beauty of their lakes. There are sixteen lakes here, the largest being Windermere. This part of the country, called the Lake District, is the most beautiful and the wettest part of Great Britain.

There are many rivers in Britain, but none of them being very long as compared with the greatest rivers of the world. Many of the rivers have been connected with each other by means of canals.

The principal rivers are the Severn, the Thames and the Trent. The Severn is the longest river in Britain but the Thames is the most important one. The Severn is 210 miles in length, the Thames is a little over 200 miles. The Thames is rather wide and deep. Its current being slow, it is quite suitable for navigation. Large vessels can get as far as London Bridge – 50 miles from the sea.

The seas surrounding the British Isles are shallow – usually less than 300 feet deep. The shallowness is in some way an advantage. Shallow water is warmer than deep water and helps to keep the shores from extreme cold.

The coast-line being irregular contains numerous harbours serving as convenient ports, among which are London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Portsmouth and others. No part of the country is more than seventy miles from the sea.

Foreigners are often surprised by the fact that much of land in Britain is open country. There are many lonely hills, quiet rivers, deep lakes and just farmlands especially in the south of the country. The open country is named Lowlands but it changes for hills called Highlands in the north of the country.

The climate in Great Britain is very mild. The winter temperature is between $+3^{\circ}$ and $+7^{\circ}$. Snow does not cover the ground very long, except on the mountains. The summer temperature is between $+15^{\circ}$ and $+18^{\circ}$. It often rains.

The English weather is very changeable. So when English people make plans for holidays they usually begin, “If the weather...”



AFTER READING TASKS

Task 1: Complete the following sentences using the information of the text:

1. ... is the official name of the state which is situated on the British Isles.
2. The capital of Great Britain is
3. The capital of Scotland is
4. The capital of Northern Ireland is
5. The capital of Wales is
6.separates Great Britain is separated from the continent.
7. Cambrian Mountains are situatedoccupying the greater part of Wales.
8. The largest lake of Great Britain is
9. Many of the rivers are connected with each other by means of
10. The open country is namedbut it changes for hills calledin the north of the country.
11. The English weather is very

Task 2: Fill in articles where necessary.

- (1) _____ United Kingdom is situated on (2) _____ British Isles which are separated from (3) _____ continent by (4) _____ English Channel and (5) _____ Strait of Dover. (6) _____ two main islands of (7) _____ British Isles are (8) _____ Great Britain and (9) _____ Ireland. (10) _____ England is situated in (11) _____ south of (12) _____ Great Britain and (13) _____ Scotland in its (14) _____ north. (15) _____ two big islands are separated by (16) _____ Irish Sea.

Task 3: Complete the text about Great Britain with the following words: *mild, large, falls, rain, Western, Atlantic, temperature, pound, population, Highlands, English, London.*

Great Britain is a (1) country, a kingdom in (2) Europe. It lies on several islands and has a (3) of about 60 mln people. Great Britain's capital is (4).... and the national currency is a (5) (6) is the language that people speak in the country.

The climate in Great Britain is very (7) There are a lot of (8) falling out all the year round. The wind brings rain from the (9) Ocean. Snow only (10) occasionally and doesn't stay for long except in the (11) of Scotland. The usual (12) in England and Wales are + 4°C in January and + 16°C in July and August.

Task 4: Answer the questions.

1. What parts does the Island of Great Britain consist of?
2. What are the names of the waters washing the coasts of Great Britain?
3. What are the most important rivers in Great Britain?
4. What is the longest river in Great Britain and what is the most important one?
5. Are the mountains of the British Isles high?
6. Are the rivers in Great Britain connected by means of canals?
7. Is the Thames a navigable river?
8. Are the seas surrounding Great Britain shallow or deep?
9. What can you say about the coastline of Great Britain?
10. What is the weather like in Great Britain?

Home task:

- 1. Learn the new vocabulary.
- 2. Retell the text: “The Geographical Position and Nature of Great Britain”.
- 3. Prepare short reports containing interesting facts on topics (8-10 sentences) using Internet resources:
 - *Geographical position of GB*
 - *Rivers and Lakes of GB*
 - *Hills and Mountains of GB*
 - *Weather and Climate of GB*