

A scenic view of the Palace of Westminster and Big Ben in London, with red flowers in the foreground. The image is a composite with a blue sky, white clouds, and a body of water. The Palace of Westminster is a large, dark stone building with many spires and towers. Big Ben is a tall, dark stone clock tower on the right side. In the foreground, there are many red flowers, possibly tulips, in a garden. The water is a deep blue color.

England

England - the country that is the largest administrative and political part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. England's population is 84% of the total UK population

London

- The capital is London, the largest city in the United Kingdom.



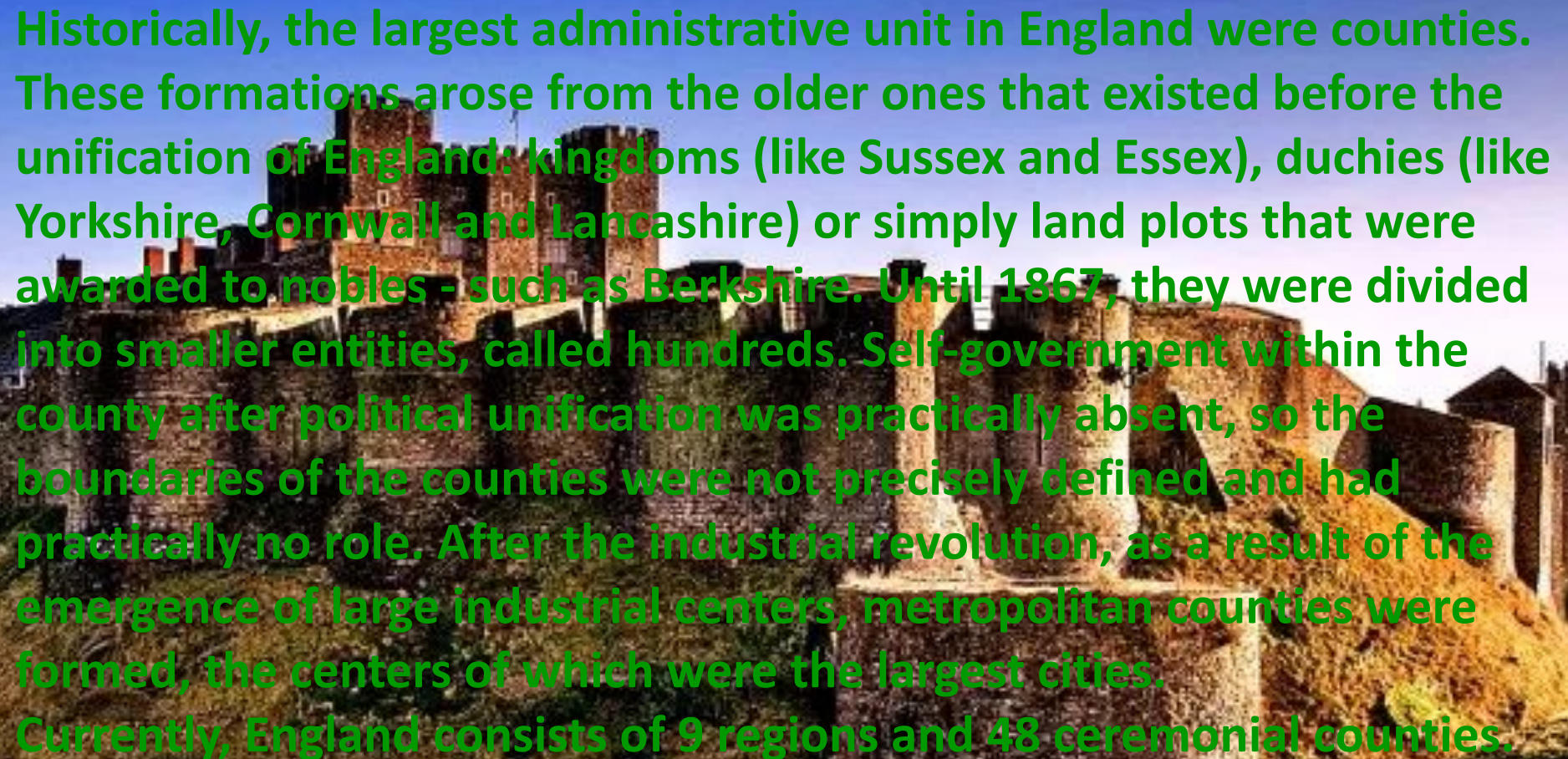
England occupies two thirds of the island of Great Britain. In the north it borders with Scotland, in the west - with Wales.

The landscape of England consists mainly of sloping hills, to the north the area becomes more mountainous. The highlands and plains are conventionally divided along a line between the mouth of the Tees (Teesside) river in the northeast and the Aiz (Devon) estuary in the southwest. In the east is a low-lying marshland, which was mainly drained for agricultural use.



The six largest cities in England (in descending order of population): London, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool and Manchester. London is the capital and largest city of England and of the United Kingdom. Standing on the River Thames in the south-east of England, at the head of its 50-mile estuary leading to the North Sea, London has been a major settlement for two millennia. Londinium was founded by the Romans. The City of London, London's ancient core – an area of just 1.12 square miles and colloquially known as the Square Mile – retains boundaries that closely follow its medieval limits. The City of Westminster is also an Inner London borough holding city status. Greater London is governed by the Mayor of London and the London Assembly.



A stone castle with multiple towers and battlements sits atop a grassy hill. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue. The castle's architecture is made of light-colored stone, and it features several tall, narrow windows and crenellated roofs. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green grass and some bare, brownish ground in the foreground.

Historically, the largest administrative unit in England were counties. These formations arose from the older ones that existed before the unification of England: kingdoms (like Sussex and Essex), duchies (like Yorkshire, Cornwall and Lancashire) or simply land plots that were awarded to nobles - such as Berkshire. Until 1867, they were divided into smaller entities, called hundreds. Self-government within the county after political unification was practically absent, so the boundaries of the counties were not precisely defined and had practically no role. After the industrial revolution, as a result of the emergence of large industrial centers, metropolitan counties were formed, the centers of which were the largest cities. Currently, England consists of 9 regions and 48 ceremonial counties.