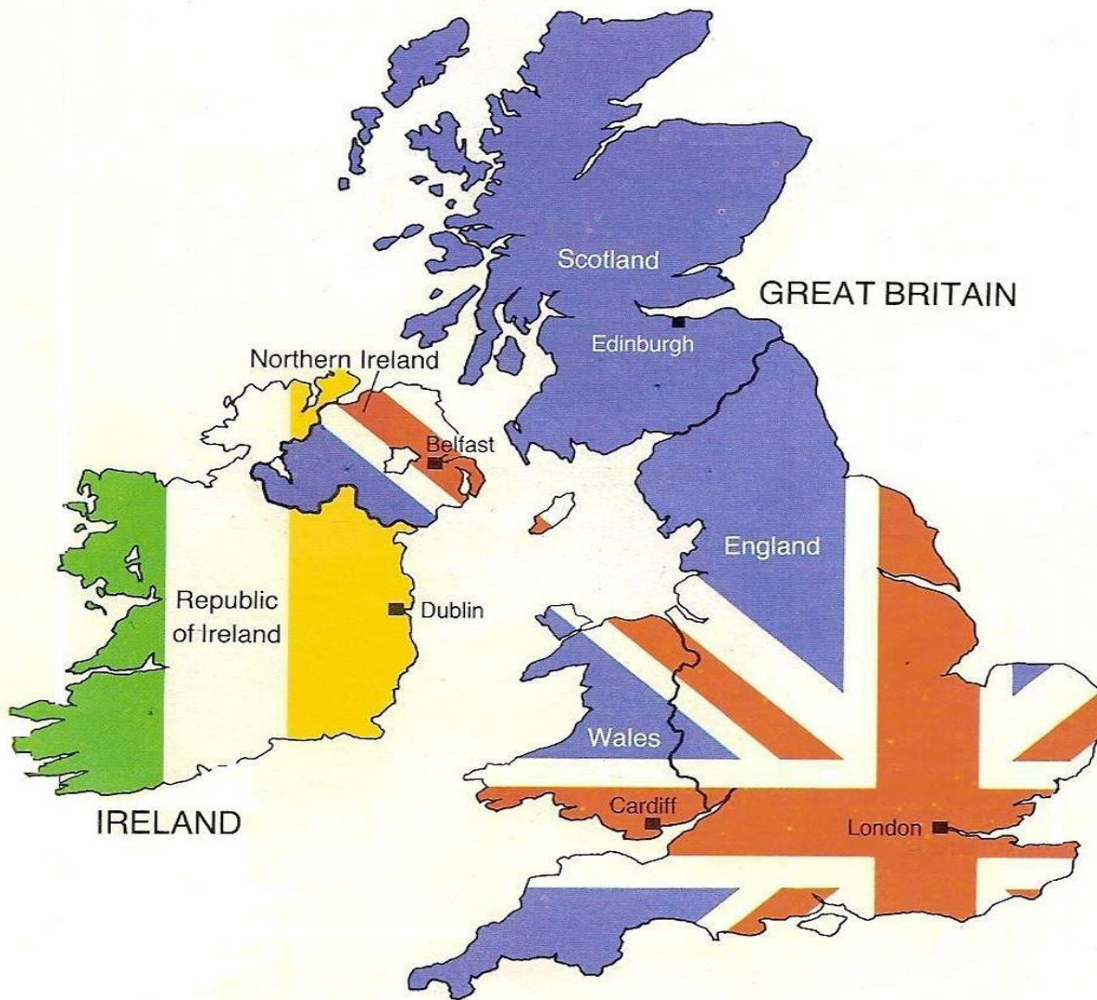


Great Britain



Great Britain is the name for the largest of the islands in the British Isles.

The British Isles: political



It includes
England,
Scotland and
Wales.

It does not
include
Northern Ireland
or the Republic
of Ireland.

Britain is split up into counties. Each county has its own local government, which is responsible for such things education, housing, town planning, rubbish disposal.



For administrative purposes, England outside Greater London is divided into 83 metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties

The population of the UK is over 58 mln people. The UK is inhabited by the English, the Scots, the Welsh and the Irish who constitute the British nation.



Britain is a constitutional monarchy. The monarch at the moment Queen Elizabeth II, is the Head of State. The Queen is also head of the judiciary and of the Church of England, as well as the Commander-in- Chief of the armed forces.



The Queen's role, however, is mainly symbolic. True power lies in the hands of the Prime Minister and his of her Cabinet



The British Parliament has two houses or chambers: the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The House of Commons is the most powerful and decides national policy.



The House of Lords can ask the House of Commons to rewrite certain parts of a bill before it becomes a new law.



Every five years, British people over the age of 18 can vote in a general election. People vote for the candidate they want in their region.

The two main parties in Britain are Labour Party and Conservative Party

