

# Great Britain

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Geography and Nature



- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is situated on the British isles to the north-west of the continent of Europe and is separated from it by the English channel and the strait of Dover, 33 kilometres wide. The territory is 244, 000 square kilometres.



- The British Isles consist of two great islands and 5,000 small islands. They all are washed by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the Irish Sea and two channels. Great Britain is a typical sea country.



- The surface of Great Britain is various, it has all geographical elements: oceans and seas, rivers and lakes, plains, mountains and valleys, low river banks and high rock shores at the sea.



- Hundreds of fishing villages are situated on the shores around the country. Storms and rains, winds and waves make the life and the work of fishermen rather difficult.



- As it was mentioned above, the surface of the country is greatly varied. In this map we see mountains in Wales, in the left part of the country. The Pennines stretch from North to South just in the middle of the island.



- The landscape in the countryside is typical for Middle England. The mountains are usually covered by forests and the valleys are often free for agriculture at small farms.



- The Pennines are not very high, only 500-900 metres on the average. The highest mountains are in the North, in Scotland, where Ben Nevis, the highest peak in the country, rises up to 1,343 metres or 4,406 feet.





- Mounting is a specific and dangerous kind of sport. Such rocks are favourite places for training of the most experienced and strong young people coming here on their vocation.



- There are not many rivers in Great Britain. Mostly they are not very long. The longest of them is the Severn. The most important of all rivers is the Thames, its length is only 332 km.



- Traditionally rivers were the places where villages and towns grew since ancient times, because rivers were not only source of water for life and industry, but also perfect means of communication and transport. Combination of rocky green mountains with blue colours of the lakes and rivers make picturesque romantic landscapes in many places of England, Wales, Scotland, which attract numerous tourists from all over the world.