

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK)





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. It consists of four countries. They are England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The UK is an island state. The two main islands are Great Britain and Ireland. The two islands are separated by the Irish Sea. The UK is separated from the continent by the English Channel and the Strait of Dover. The UK is also washed by the Atlantic Ocean in the north and the North Sea in the east. The climate of the UK is cool and humid. The weather is so changeable that the English often say they have no climate but only weather.

the British Isles – Британские острова

Wales - Уэльс

Northern Ireland – Северная Ирландия

the Strait of Dover – Дуврский пролив

official - официальный

consist of – состоять из ...

island state – островное государство

humid - влажный

The climate of the UK is good for plants and flowers. Some of them have become symbols of the country. Robin Redbreast is the national bird of the UK.

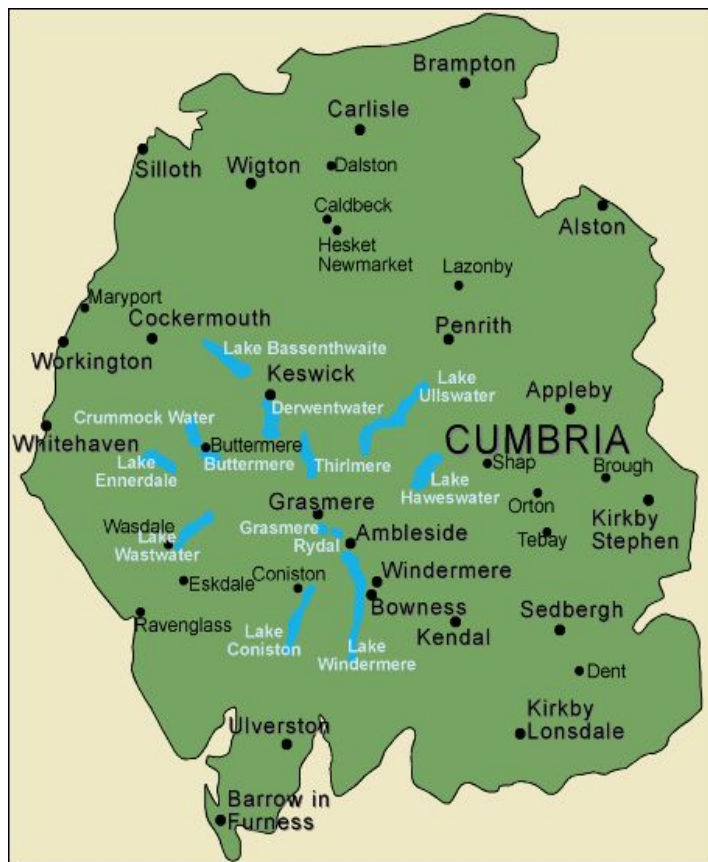


Robin Redbreast – красногрудая малиновка

England is the heart of Britain. The capital of England is London. The symbol of England is the rose.



There are high mountains in the north and the west of England, but the rest of the territory is a vast plain. The Lake District with its lakes, mountains and valleys is a favourite holiday resort.



the rest of – остальная часть
vast - обширный

The Lake District – Озерный Край



The biggest rivers in England are the Thames and the Severn. There are many industrial cities in England. They are Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester.

industrial – индустриальный,
промышленный



Oxford and Cambridge are famous for their universities founded in the 13th century.



founded - основанный

Scotland is a land of mountains, wild moorlands, narrow valleys, plains and famous lakes.



moorland – вересковая пустошь

These lakes are called lochs. The beautiful Loch Lomond with its islands is the largest. But the best-known is Loch Ness where as some people think a large monster lives.



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The Highlands of Scotland are among the oldest mountains in the world.

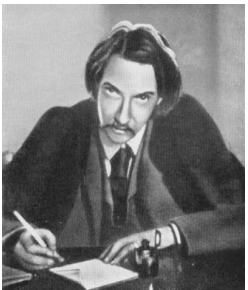
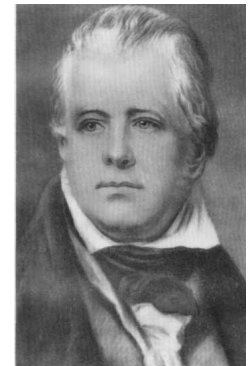
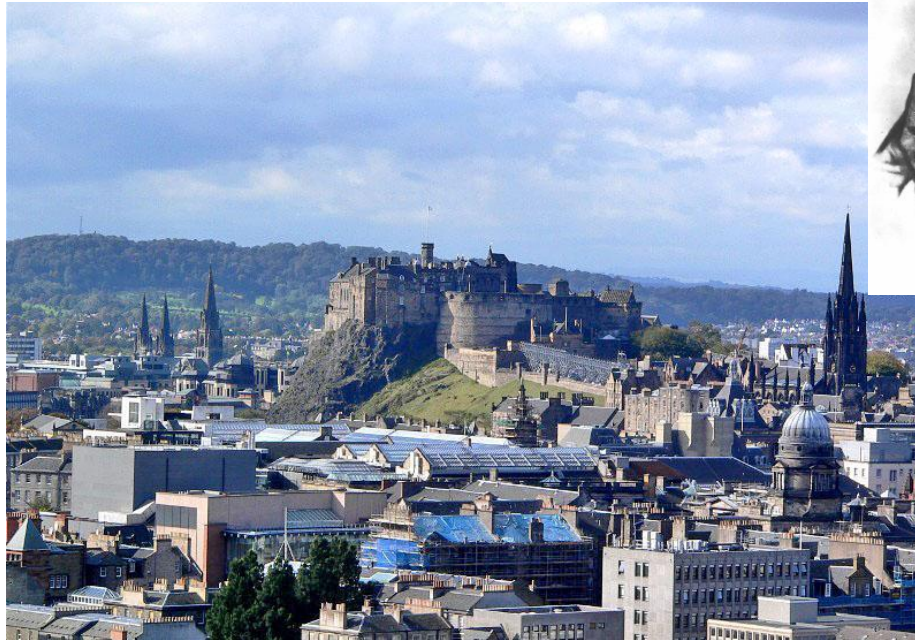
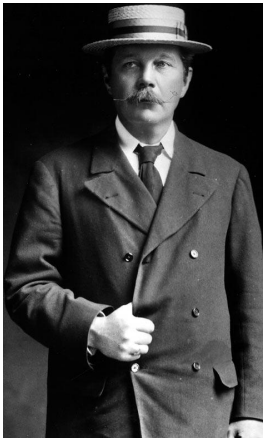


The capital of Scotland is Edinburgh. The symbol of Scotland is the thistle.



thistle - чертополох

Edinburgh is the cultural centre of Scotland and it is associated with the names of George Gordon Byron, Walter Scott, Robert Stevenson, Robert Burns and Arthur Conan Doyle.



is associated with – связан с...

The national clothes of the Scottish people are the kilt.



kilt - килт



Wales is the smallest land of the UK. The capital of Wales is Cardiff. The symbol of Wales is the daffodil and the leek.



daffodil - нарцисс
leek – лук порей



It is a highland country of old hard rocks. North Wales is a country of mountains and deep valleys, South Wales is a land of high hills and wide valleys. The pride of Wales is Snowdonia, the region of high mountains. Snowdon is the highest mountain in England and Wales (3,560 feet = 1,085 m).

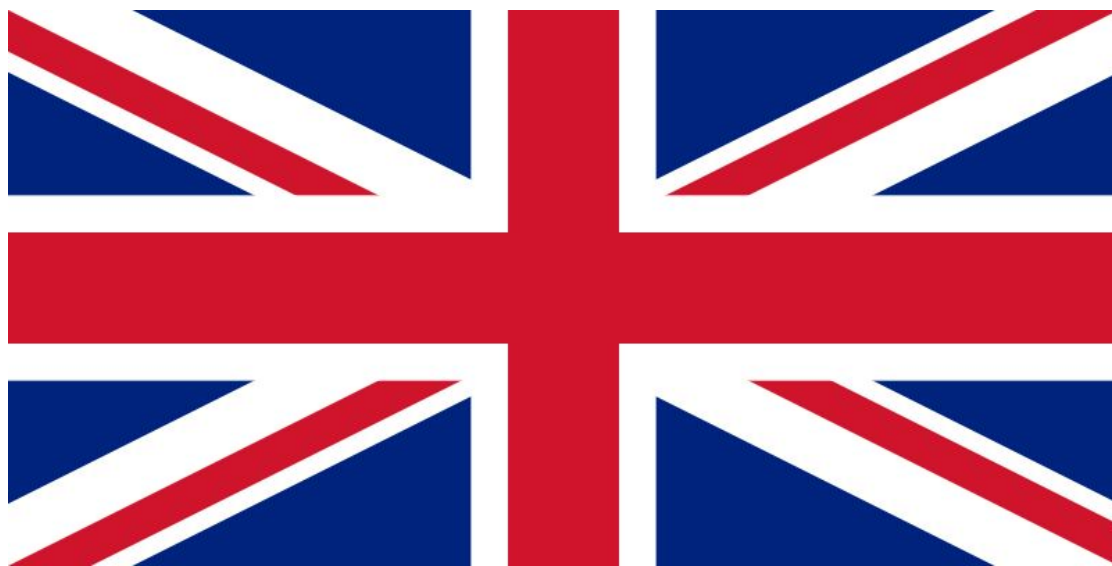
pride - гордость

Northern Ireland is in the northeast of the island of Ireland. It is the land of lakes, rivers and a varied sea coast. Some places are known for their wild beauty. The climate of the country is warm and wet. The capital of Northern Ireland is Belfast. Its symbol is the shamrock.



varied - разнообразный
shamrock – трилистник, клевер

More than 56 million people live in Great Britain. Many of them live in big industrial cities like London, Manchester and Liverpool. Everyone in Britain speaks English. But in some parts of Scotland and Wales people speak Scottish and Welsh. The flag of the UK is known as the Union Jack. It is made 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).



the patron saint – святой покровитель