Bright Lights, Big City

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is a union of four countries. They are England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Their capital cities are London, Belfast, Edinburgh and Cardiff.



Maps

A map is a picture that shows an area of land or sea. When using a map, we use words such as next to and behind to describe where something is and words such as left and right to explain how to get somewhere.

Maps use symbols to show where features are located, such as stations, parking, roads and rivers.

station

road

P parking

river

London

London is a large urban settlement. It is the largest city in the United Kingdom. Almost nine million people live there. The River Thames flows through London. Here are some important and famous London landmarks.



Houses of Parliament



Tower Bridge



Royal Albert Hall



London Eye

HM Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II is the current monarch of the United Kingdom. She was born in 1926 and became queen in 1952. The Queen is famous across the world.



HM Queen Elizabeth II

The Great Fire of London

The Great Fire of London was a significant event in London's history. It began in a bakery on Pudding Lane on Sunday 2nd September 1666. Many buildings were destroyed, including St Paul's Cathedral. Today, a monument stands near the place where the fire began.



Monument to the Great Fire of London

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Geographical features

There are many geographical features in the United Kingdom. Some features are human and some are physical.

Human features

Human features are things that are man-made and include schools, monuments, airports, shops, houses, hospitals, parks and roads.



school



church

Physical features

Physical features are things that occur naturally and include rivers, forests, hills, mountains and cliffs.



hills



cliffs

Town and countryside

The United Kingdom is made up of cities, towns and villages. Life in a city can be very different from life in a village in the countryside.

Life in a city

A city is a large urban settlement where lots of people live and work. There are many shops, restaurants, museums and theatres.



City of London

Life in the countryside

The countryside is a rural area outside of a town or city. Less people live and work in the countryside than in a city.



Village of Corton Denham, Somerset

Glossary

capital city	A city that is home to the government and ruler of a country.
city	A large town, often with a cathedral.
country	A large area of land that has its own government.
countryside	An area of land with fields, villages and farms.
landmark	An important building or place.
queen	A female ruler of a kingdom.
rural	Used to describe an area that is located in the countryside.
urban	Used to describe an area of land or human settlement where lots of people live and work.
village	A small group of houses and buildings that is usually in the countryside.

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