

GREAT BRITAIN

Do you know that Great Britain is the largest island in Europe and the ninth largest island in the world? Great Britain (GB) is also the name for England, Wales and Scotland.

The United Kingdom (UK) is England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The country has a population of over 65 million people.

Click & match!



England is located in the south-east of Great Britain. The capital of England is **London**.

Scotland is a country in the north of Great Britain, and its capital is **Edinburgh**.

Wales is located in the west of Great Britain. The capital of Wales is **Cardiff**, which is also the biggest Welsh city.

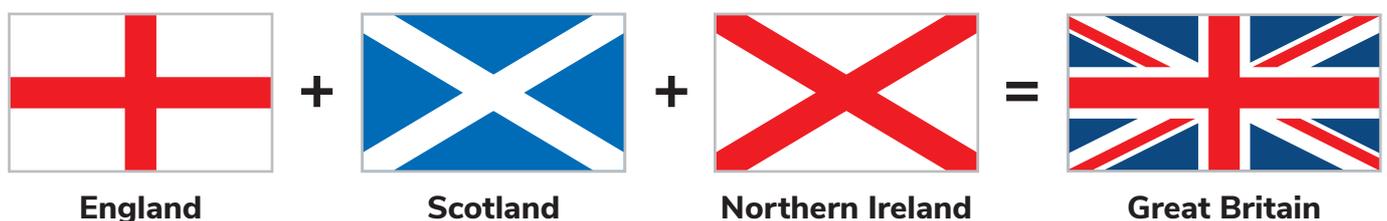
The people of Wales call their country Cymru in the Welsh language. Welsh is a Celtic language and it is completely different to English!

Northern Ireland is situated on the island of Ireland. **Belfast** is its capital and the largest city.

Look at the map and put the names of the UK member countries and their capitals in the correct place.

THE FLAG

The national flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is called the Union Jack. It is a combination of the flags of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.



LONDON



London is the capital of the United Kingdom, and the biggest city in Europe. Almost 9 million people live there. The city was built by the Romans in AD 43 on the river Thames, and at first it was called Londinium. The most famous tourist attractions in London are:



Buckingham Palace – where the British Queen Elizabeth II lives. The Queen has a couple of homes, and when she is staying at Buckingham Place, the British flag flies above the building.



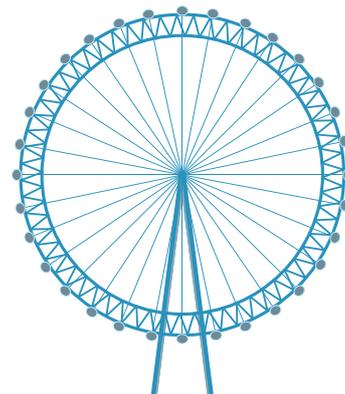
The Tower of London – which was a fortress, a royal palace and a prison.

The Houses of Parliament and Big Ben

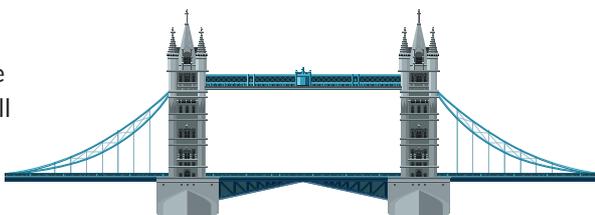
– Big Ben is the name of a bell that rings in the clock tower in the Houses of Parliament. However, most people, including Londoners, call the tower 'Big Ben'.



London Eye – a giant Ferris wheel. It is 135 meters high and you can take great pictures of London from the top. A ride on London Eye lasts about 30 minutes.



The Tower Bridge – one of the most famous bridges in the world. It runs over the River Thames and it opens up so that the tall ships can go through it. The bridge is 244 meters long and each of its two towers is 65 meters high.



The Shard – the tallest building in Europe.



In 1666, London was almost completely destroyed in the Great Fire of London. Surprisingly, only a few people were killed.

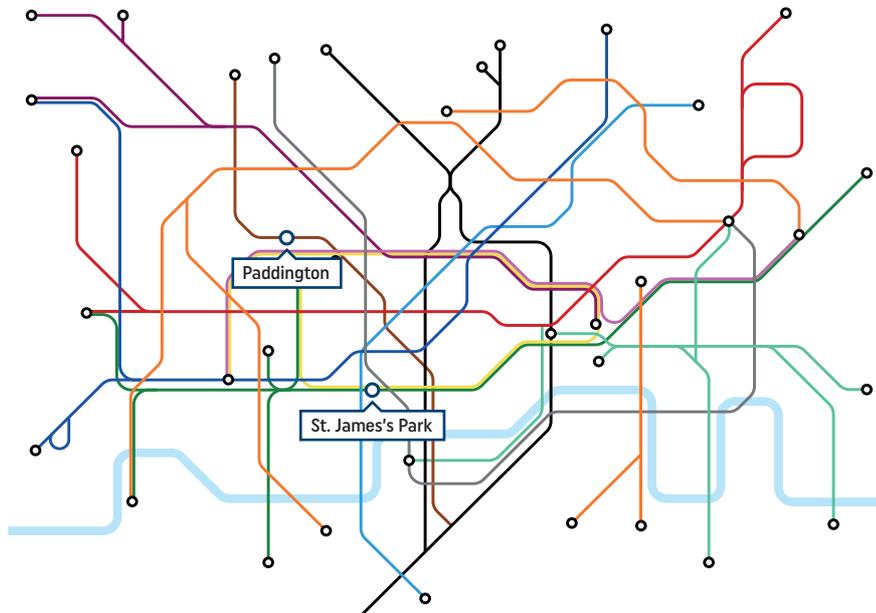
Click & play



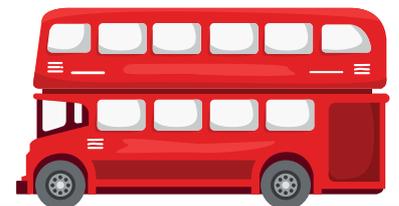
THE LONDON UNDERGROUND

London is a very big city and it has 14 metro lines. People call it the Underground or the Tube. If you put all the lines together, they would be as long as the distance from London to Paris!

Look at the map of the London Underground – quite complicated, isn't it? Which lines do you need to take to get from Paddington to St. James's Park?



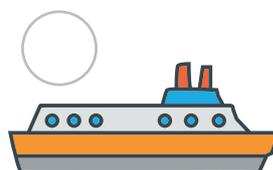
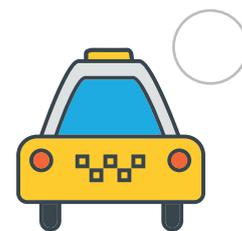
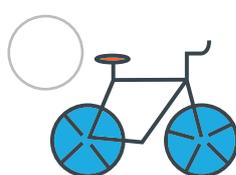
In London, you can also take one of the famous red double decker buses. The red buses are one of the most popular British symbols.



Click & play!

Do you know any other means of transport? Match the names with the pictures.

- 1 a train
- 2 a plane
- 3 a scooter
- 4 a bicycle
- 5 a boat
- 6 a bus
- 7 a ferry
- 8 a taxi



THE ROYAL FAMILY

Queen Elizabeth II is the oldest monarch Britain has ever had. She was born in 1926 in London. The Queen has no real power, but she is really popular and loved by the British people.

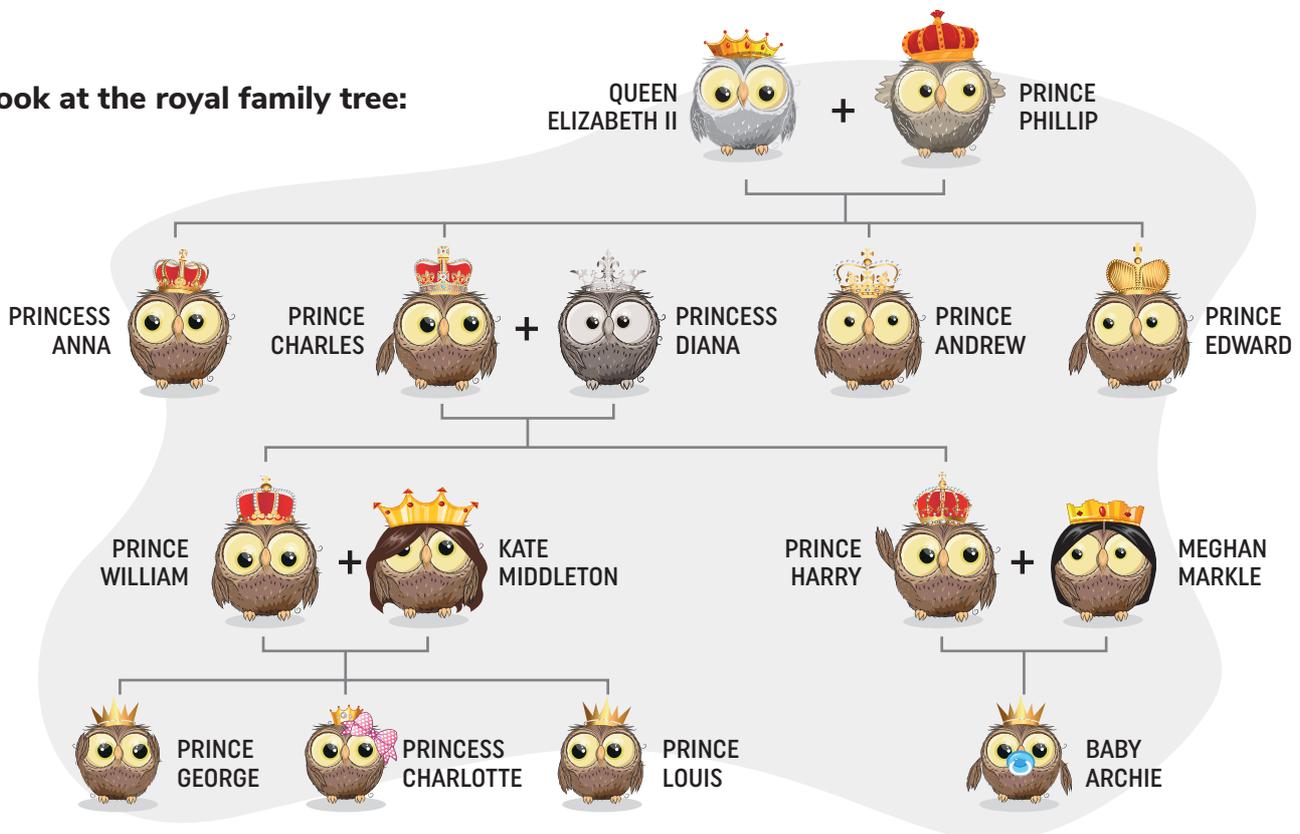


Here are some interesting facts about the Queen:

- She has no passport or driving licence, because such documents are issued by the monarch, so she does not need to issue them for herself!
- She celebrates her birthday twice a year. Her real birthday is celebrated on April 21st. Her official birthday is celebrated on the second Saturday in June because the weather is usually much better then.
- She loves corgis and she has had over 30 dogs. She even created her own breed of dog that is half corgi and half dachshund.



Look at the royal family tree:



**Would you like to be a king or a queen?
What are the good and bad sides of being a monarch?**



The tall hats worn by the guards of Buckingham Palace are called 'bearskins'. However, nowadays they are not made from real bear fur.



BRITISH FOOD

Do you like sandwiches? People eat them all over the world, but not everybody knows that they were invented in England! 'The sandwich' was named after an English aristocrat, the 4th Earl of Sandwich, who liked this kind of food because he could eat and play cards at the same time.



Traditional English food includes fish and chips, and a full-English breakfast is sausages, bacon, eggs, mushrooms, tomatoes, tea and a toast.



The world's first chocolate bar was also made in England – it was 'invented' in 1847 by Joseph Fry from Bristol.



The British are famous for drinking a lot of tea, and they often put milk in it. However, afternoon tea is a small meal, not a drink. The British often have it at five o'clock.



ENGLISH WEATHER

Britain is known for its changeable and rainy weather, and there are about a hundred words for different kinds of rain in the English language!
British summers are cooler than those on the continent,

but the winters are milder and temperatures almost never drop below 0 degrees Celsius. This is why you can see some tropical plants in the south and even palm trees in London.

How many hidden weather words can you find on the umbrella?





When the British say 'it's raining cats and dogs', it means that it's raining heavily.

Click & play the game. Then write your answers!



1. What is the name of the river that flows through London?
2. What is the population of London?
3. What is the capital of Wales?
4. What is the name of the British flag?
5. What is the nickname for the London Underground?
6. What colour are the famous London taxis?
7. What do we call the London red buses?
8. How many lines does the Tube have?
9. What is the Queen's favourite breed of dog?
10. What popular kind of food was invented by and named after an English aristocrat?
11. Britain is the largest _____ in Europe.
12. What does the idiom 'it's raining cats and dogs' mean?
13. What is the capital of Scotland?
14. What is the capital of Northern Ireland?
15. What is the name of the Celtic language spoken in Wales?
16. What is the name of the Queen's London palace?
17. What do we call the tall hats worn by the royal guards?
18. What is the name of the giant Ferris wheel in the centre of London?
19. Who established London and what was it first called?
21. What happened in London in 1666?
22. Why does the Queen celebrate her birthday twice a year?