

United Kingdom

short version

Basic Facts

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a country in Western Europe. It has a population of 66 million. The capital and the largest city is London. The currency is the British Pound. It is divided into 100 pence. The local languages are English, Scottish and Welsh.

Geography

The United Kingdom consists of four countries: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The capital city of England is London. The capital city of Wales is Cardiff. The capital city of Scotland is Edinburgh. The capital city of Northern Ireland is Belfast. The largest island of the United Kingdom is Great Britain. It consists of England, Wales and Scotland. Around the United Kingdom there are the North Sea, the English Channel and the Atlantic Ocean. The weather is unpredictable. Summers are warm and winters are cold. The longest rivers are the Severn and the Thames.

Government and Politics

The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy. The head of state is Queen Elizabeth II. The head of the government is the Prime Minister. The Parliament consists of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Economy

The United Kingdom has the fifth largest economy in the world. The most important products are cars, aeroplanes and drugs.

Places of Interest

London is the most visited city in the world by international tourists. Stonehenge is a circle of huge standing stones. Stratford-upon-Avon is the birthplace of the playwright William Shakespeare. Oxford is the seat of the oldest university in the English speaking world. Cornwall is one of the most popular holiday destinations in Britain.

Doplňující otázky

1. What does the flag of the UK look like?

The national flag of the United Kingdom is the Union Jack. It is blue, red and white. It consists of the cross of Saint George, the cross of Saint Patrick and St Andrew's Cross.

2. What is the national anthem of the UK?

The national anthem of the United Kingdom is "God Save the Queen". When there is a king instead of a queen it becomes "God Save the King".

3. What are the biggest cities in the UK?

London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield and Edinburgh.

4. What is the highest point of the UK?

The highest point of the UK is Ben Nevis.

5. What do you know about British cuisine?

Well-known traditional British dishes are full breakfast, fish and chips and the Christmas dinner. Full breakfast includes bacon, sausages, eggs and baked beans. The Christmas dinner consists of turkey, cranberry sauce, potatoes and Christmas pudding.

6. What do you know about sport in the UK?

The most popular sports are football, rugby, cricket, horseracing, swimming and tennis.

7. What do you know about William Shakespeare?

He was an English playwright, poet, and actor. He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon. He wrote for example Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, Macbeth, King Lear and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

8. Which British scientists and inventors do you know?

Charles Darwin is famous for the theory of evolution. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web.

9. Do you know any famous British singers or bands?

The Beatles were a rock band. The members of the band were John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr. They were from Liverpool. Their most famous songs are Yesterday, Yellow Submarine, Let It Be and She Loves You.

10. Who was Henry VIII?

Henry VIII was the King of England. He established the Church of England because he wanted a divorce from Catherine of Aragon. He was married six times.

11. What do you know about Elizabeth II?

Elizabeth II is Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth countries. Her father was King George VI. Her husband is Prince Phillip. She has four children: Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward. She lives in Buckingham Palace in London.

Důležitá slovíčka

currency	(karnsi)	měna
unpredictable	(anpridiktbl)	nepředvídatelný
government	(gav'ment)	vláda
drugs	(drags)	léky
birthplace	(brfplejs)	místo narození
playwright	(plejrajt)	dramatik
cross	(kros)	kříž
anthem	(entm)	hymna
bacon	(bejkn)	slanina
beans	(bínz)	fazole
turkey	(trky)	krocán
cranberry sauce	(krenbery sos)	brusinková omáčka
scientist	(sajntist)	vědec
inventor	(inventr)	vynálezce
establish	(istebliš)	založit
divorce	(divors)	rozvod