



THE UNITED KINGDOM

1 What do you know about the United Kingdom? Think about: *the land, the people, the Royal Family.* Tell the class.

Reading

2 Look at the headings in the text and the pictures. What would you like to know about the UK? Write four questions, then read and see if you can find the answers.

The United Kingdom is in north-western Europe. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all form the United Kingdom. It is a country with a long history that goes back centuries!

Official name:	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Population:	64,100,000
Capital:	London
Official language:	English
Currency:	British Pound
Area (km ²):	241,930

Let's take a look at ...



THE LAND

- When we say 'Great Britain' or 'Britain' we mean England, Wales and Scotland.
- England is 74 times smaller than the USA.
- Nowhere in the UK is more than 120 kilometres away from the sea.
- Britain is the ninth largest and third most populated island in the world.
- The UK has more than 1,000 islands.



THE ROYAL FAMILY

- Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of State in the UK.
- The Queen does not rule the country but she has an important role in formal government ceremonies.
- The Queen's London home and office is Buckingham Palace. The Palace has its own police station!
- Windsor Castle, the Royal Family's home in Berkshire, is the oldest and largest royal home in the world.
- There are 9 royal thrones. Six of them are in the Throne Room in Buckingham Palace.





THE PEOPLE

- People have lived in the UK for about 30,000 years.
- Today, about 13% of the people living in the UK were born outside the country.
- More than 300 languages are spoken in England.
- French was the official language of the UK for more than 300 years, between the 15th and the 18th centuries.
- The British drink about 165 million cups of tea every day!
- The British are famous for being extremely polite, saying 'please' and 'thank you' a lot!

FLAG & SYMBOLS

- The British flag is called the Union Jack. It is named so because it combines the three countries that are united under one ruler: the kingdoms of England and Wales, of Scotland and of Ireland.



- Each country in the UK has its own national animal. England has the lion, Scotland has the unicorn and Wales has the red dragon. Northern Ireland has no national animal.

- The UK's national flowers are: the rose (England), the thistle (Scotland), the daffodil (Wales) and the shamrock (Northern Ireland).



CHECK THESE WORDS !

form, go back, official language, currency, populated, polite, Head of State, rule, role, formal, government, ceremony, palace, royal, throne, symbol, unite, ruler

3 a) Read again and complete the sentences with words/phrases from the text.

- 1 People first lived in the UK about years ago.
- 2 A few hundred years ago, people in the UK used to speak
- 3 British people are considered to be very
- 4 England is than the US in terms of size.
- 5 At, where Queen Elizabeth lives, there's a throne room and even a(n)

b) What do the numbers in the list refer to in the text? Tell your partner.

- 165 million • 120 • 9 • 1,000 • 74 • 30,000
- 13 • 300 • 64,100,000

165 million is the number of cups of tea that British people drink every day!

Vocabulary

4 Use words from the **Check These Words** box in the correct form to complete the sentences.

- 1 People in the UK speak over 300 languages, but English is the
- 2 Having over 64 million inhabitants, the UK is very heavily
- 3 The British say 'please' and 'thank you' a lot – they're very
- 4 The history of the people of the UK about 30,000 years.
- 5 The Queen isn't the ruler of the UK; she's the

Speaking & Writing

5 Work in pairs. Write a quiz based on the text with ten true/false questions. Exchange your quiz with another pair and answer each other's questions. Correct the false statements.

- 1 *The UK is in the north-eastern part of Europe. (False – the UK is in the north-western part of Europe.)*

6 Do some online research to find out information about your own country's symbols. Write a short paragraph about your country's flag, national animal and national flower. Read your paragraph to the class.



London

- 1 What are some things a visitor to your town would enjoy doing? In three minutes, make a list, then tell the class.

Reading

- 2 a) Look at the title of the text and the pictures. What are some things that a visitor to London can see and do? Read to find out.



LONDON

The Highlights!

*In 2015, London was named the world's most popular travel **destination** ... for the fifth time in seven years! The English capital welcomes millions of tourists from the UK and all over the world every year and **it's no wonder**. This amazing city has hundreds of things to offer visitors all year round!*



Sights

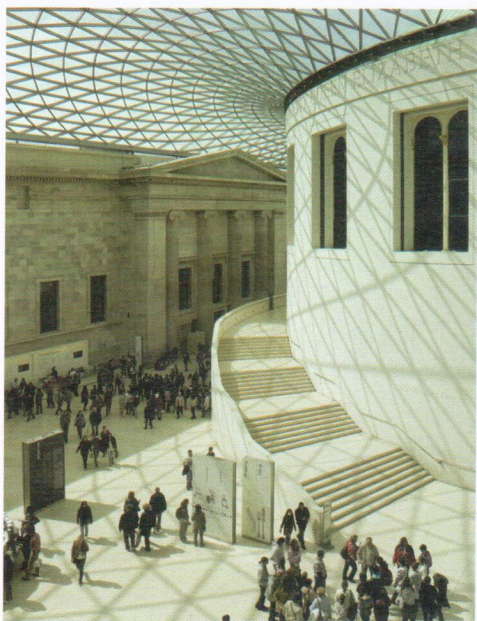
There's no better way to see London's sights than to take a 'hop-on hop-off' tour on one of the city's famous open top double-decker buses! Listen to a funny guide tell you all about London's interesting landmarks and their **fascinating** history as you ride through the city. Learn about Big Ben – the Houses of Parliament's famous clock tower –, Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace and much more. Do you want to see something **up close** – the Crown Jewels at the historic Tower of London, maybe? Just get off the bus, enjoy your visit, then catch the next tour bus that **comes along** and continue your guided tour!

CHECK THESE WORDS!

highlights, destination, it's no wonder, offer, sights, hop-on hop-off tour, open top, double-decker bus, landmark, fascinating, Parliament, up close, Crown Jewels, historic, guided tour, giant, Ferris wheel, have one's photo taken, waxworks, figure, share one's opinion, world famous, ancient treasure, mummy, venue, musical, in the open air, in case

Fun

Now the real fun starts! Enjoy an amazing view of the city from 135 metres up in the air on the London Eye, a **giant** Ferris wheel. Or do you want to have your photo taken with Albert Einstein, Prince Harry or Angelina Jolie? Visit Madame Tussauds waxworks museum and you can do just that! Figures made of wax look exactly like famous people from the past and the present. For great outdoor fun you can have a picnic in one of central London's huge parks. Go swimming, boating, cycling, ice skating or even horse riding in Hyde Park, for example, or if you're there on a Sunday, head to Speaker's Corner and hear people share their opinions with the world!



Culture

With more than 180 museums and about 860 galleries, London is a culture lover's paradise! No trip to London is complete without a visit to the world famous British Museum, where you can see **ancient** treasures including the Rosetta Stone and Egyptian cat mummies, or The Tate Modern, one of the world's most famous art galleries. But London's culture isn't all about history and art. Music lovers can go to a concert at the O₂ Arena, the world's most popular music **venue**, or go to see a musical such as *The Phantom of the Opera* or *Mamma Mia!* in one of the city's many West End theatres. Theatre lovers can even watch a Shakespeare play **in the open air** at the famous Globe Theatre – as long as they take their umbrella in case it rains!

b) Read the text again and mark the sentences as T (true), F (false) or DS (doesn't say).

- 1 Most of the tourists that visit London are from outside the UK. _____
- 2 You can get on or off a tour bus any time you want. _____
- 3 Most of the waxworks at Madame Tussauds are historical figures. _____
- 4 There is a special area for picnics in Hyde Park. _____
- 5 You can see Egyptian cat mummies at a famous art gallery. _____
- 6 You can see a famous musical at the O₂ Arena. _____
- 7 Plays at the Globe Theatre are watched outdoors. _____

Vocabulary

3 Match the words in bold in the text to their meanings below.

- huge • place to visit • outdoors • standing very near
- arrives • it isn't surprising • very interesting • really old
- place for events

4 Fill in: *view, double-decker, Ferris, share, bus, destination, world, ancient, venue, guided*. Use the phrases to write sentences based on the text, as in the example.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 travel | 6 famous |
| 2 buses | 7 treasures |
| 3 tour | 8 music |
| 4 tour | 9 amazing |
| 5 wheel | 10 their opinions |

The O₂ Arena is a popular music venue where lots of famous artists perform.


Speaking & Writing

5 Work in pairs. Imagine you have just returned from a visit to London and your partner is asking you questions about your experience. Use the information from the texts to prepare questions and answers, then act out your dialogue in front of the class.

A: *So, did you go on a guided tour?*

B: *Yes, we did! We went on an open top bus.*

A: *What did you see? etc.*

6  Work in small groups to collect pictures and information to prepare a short tourist guide to your country's capital city. Collect information under the following headings: *sights, fun, culture*. Present your guide to the class.