

## **Geography Fair – United Kingdom**

### **5 Cultural Facts**

- English is the official language of the United Kingdom
- Soccer is the national sport, but they also play cricket and rugby. Tennis and golf are also popular.
- Most people are Christian, and many belong to the Anglican Church.
- The British listen to popular music similar to the United States.
- Many British people have afternoon tea and snacks in the afternoon.

### **Explanation of Flag**

Blue field with the red cross of Saint George (patron saint of England) edged in white superimposed on the diagonal red cross of Saint Patrick (patron saint of Ireland), which is superimposed on the diagonal white cross of Saint Andrew (patron saint of Scotland). Known as the Union Flag, but commonly called the Union Jack; the design and colors (especially the Blue Ensign) have been the basis for a number of other flags including other Commonwealth countries and their states or provinces, and British overseas territories.

## Holidays and Festivals

- The Celebration of the Birthday of the Queen is held on the second Saturday in June.
- Late Summer Holiday (the last Monday in August or the first in September)
- Boxing Day (26 December)

## Timeline

- The United Kingdom was formed by Acts of Union between England and Wales (1536) and England, Wales, and Scotland (1707), uniting the three nations under a single monarchy and legislative council (Parliament in London).
- In 1776, the British colonies in America, New England, declared their independence from the United Kingdom.
- The British and Irish parliaments were united in 1801.
- 1939 - Germany invades Poland. UK declares war on Germany (WWII)
- 2017 - March - Government formally applies to leave the European Union, beginning a two-year process of negotiations.

## **Physical Geography**

Western Europe, islands - including the northern one-sixth of the island of Ireland - between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea; northwest of France. Mostly rugged hills and low mountains; level to rolling plains in east and southeast. Twice the size of Pennsylvania; slightly smaller than Oregon.

## WOW Facts

- The conventional long form of the United Kingdom is United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Great Britain includes England, Scotland and Wales.
- The United Kingdom happens to be the first industrialized country in the World.
- Big Ben refers to the bell and not the clock.
- The Thames River has over 200 bridges and tunnels along its course.
- In Medieval England, animals were tried for their crimes and even punished for them.
- To paste a stamp that has the Monarch's face upside down is considered treason.
- London was the first place to have an underground subway system.
- Buckingham Palace has its own police station.
- Almost 75% of the land in the UK is taken for farming.
- The English drink the most tea in the world.

## **Mini Reports**

### **Queen Elizabeth II**

Elizabeth II became queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1952. Elizabeth II's reign rivals the other longest serving monarch, Elizabeth I, who was Queen of England and Ireland from 1558 to 1603. Through her parents and grandparents, Elizabeth II can trace her ancestors back long before Elizabeth I. Queen Elizabeth's father was King George VI. When he died in February 1952 Elizabeth became Queen. Her coronation was on 2 June 1953. Queen Elizabeth II is one of the most famous women in the world. She has visited many countries and met many world leaders. She has probably travelled more miles than any king or queen in history.

## **Conflict with Northern Ireland**

A violent thirty-year conflict that began with a civil rights march in Londonderry on 5 October 1968 and ended with the Good Friday Agreement on 10 April 1998. At the heart of the conflict lay the constitutional status of Northern Ireland. The goal of the unionist and overwhelmingly Protestant majority was to remain part of the United Kingdom. The goal of the nationalist and republican, almost exclusively Catholic, minority was to become part of the Republic of Ireland. This was a territorial conflict, not a religious one. At its heart lay two visions of national identity and national belonging. The principal difference between 1968 and 1998 is that the people and organizations pursuing these rival futures eventually resolved to do so through peaceful and democratic means. This result of politics over violence was not easily gained. During the conflict, the scale of the killings by all sides eventually exceeded 3,600. As many as 50,000 people were physically maimed or injured, with countless others psychologically damaged by the conflict, a legacy that continues to shape the post-1998 period.

## **Works Cited**

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## Tower Bridge over the Thames River



## Clock Tower & Big Ben



# Stonehenge

