

General Geography of the UK

The full name for the UK is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Great Britain is made up of England, Scotland and Wales. Northern Ireland is on a separate island, along with the Republic of Ireland (a separate country).

Map of the UK's Geography



Capital Cities of the UK

England: London

Scotland: Edinburgh

Wales: Cardiff

Northern Ireland: Belfast

The UK Government

The UK government is located at the Houses of Parliament, in Westminster (England).

The parliament in Westminster is responsible for defence, foreign affairs and for governing England.

There are also devolved administrations with limited powers in specific areas (e.g., transport, education and health).

This gives the other nations of the UK a bit more autonomy. *The names of the devolved administrations are below.*

- Scotland: Scottish Parliament

- Wales: Senedd Cymru (Welsh Parliament)

- Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Assembly

Crown Dependencies

- Close to the UK (physically) but not part of it
- Channel Islands (Guernsey and Jersey) and the Isle of Man
- Own governments
- UK responsible for defence and international affairs

British Overseas Territories

- 14 in total (e.g., St Helena, the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar)
- Spread all over the world
- Not part of the UK, but is linked to it

Metaphor for the UK

The UK is like a family.

England: eldest sibling

Rest of the UK: younger siblings

Crown dependencies: close cousins

Britain's overseas territories: distant relatives



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