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Unit 1

**THE UNITED
KINGDOM
ENGLAND**

Great Britain

The official name of Great Britain is *the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*(大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国). Great Britain is the name of the major island of the United Kingdom including *England*(英格兰), *Scotland*(苏格兰) and *Wales*(威尔士); the United Kingdom, or the UK comprises Great Britain and *Northern Ireland*(北爱尔兰).

Great Britain is an island lying off the north-western coastline of Europe. *The English Channel*(英吉利海峡) separates it from the mainland in the south. *The Strait of Dover*(多佛尔海峡), 18 miles wide, divides it from France. Great Britain is separated from *Belgium*(比利时) and *Holland*(荷兰) by *the North Sea*(北海), and from *Ireland*(爱尔兰) by *the Irish Sea*(爱尔兰海).

The UK is often referred to as Great Britain or *the British Isles*(不列颠群岛). It is an island state consisting of more than 5, 000 large and small islands, the most important being *the Isle of Man*(马恩岛) and *the Isle of Wight*(怀特岛). England is a part of the island of Great Britain; *the Cheviot Hills*(切维厄特丘陵) and the river *Tweed*(特威代尔) divide it from Scotland.

No part of Great Britain lies more than one hundred miles from the coast. The coastline is broken and has a few bays and excellent natural harbours. Internationally famous ports include London, *Bristol* (布里斯托尔), *Southampton* (南安普敦), *Portsmouth* (朴次茅斯), *Dover* (多佛) and others.

Geographically the island of Great Britain is subdivided into two main regions: *Lowland Britain* (苏格兰低地) and *Highland Britain* (苏格兰高地). The highest mountain *Ben Nevis* (本尼维斯山) (1,343) is in Scotland; the highest peak in Wales is *Snowdon* (斯诺登山) (1,085).

The greater part of the land is flat. There are plenty of short rivers in Great Britain; *the Severn* (塞文河) is the longest one, while *the Thames* (泰晤士河) is the deepest and the most important one.

Due to the influence of *the Gulf Stream* (墨西哥湾流), a warm ocean current washing Britain's western shores, the UK enjoys warmer winters and cooler summers than other countries at the same latitude.

There is much rain and fog in England. October is usually the wettest month, July is the hottest and January is the coldest one. All over the world Britain is notorious for its fogs. For many centuries, during the cold time of the year the English people have been using coal in their fireplaces in private houses, though smoke from factories contributed a great deal to the trouble too. That kind of fog and smoke English people used to call *smog*. An unusually thick smog in London in 1962 caused the death of

some 4,000 people. During the 1960s and 1970s, laws were passed under which using open coal fires in homes in the city area was forbidden. The laws stopped much of the pollution from the factories, too. The ordinary damp mists which afflict all parts of the country from time to time are no worse than similar mists in many other countries.

The country is not very rich in mineral resources. Over three-quarters of Britain's land is used for farming; farms produce nearly half of the food that Britain needs. The UK is a highly developed industrial country too, known as a producer and exporter of machinery, electronics, ships, aircraft and navigation equipment.

The flora of the British Isles is varied and the fauna is similar to that of the north-west of Europe.

The capital of the UK is London, in England. The capital of Wales is *Cardiff*(加的夫), and the Scottish capital is at *Edinburgh*(爱丁堡); the capital of Northern Ireland is *Belfast*(贝尔法斯特).

Britain has been many centuries in the making. The Romans conquered most part of Britain, but were unable to subdue the independent tribes in the West and in the North.

Further waves of invaders followed: *Angles*(盎格鲁人), *Saxons*(撒克逊人), *Jutes*(朱特人), *Vikings*(维京人) and *Normans*(诺曼人). All these contributed to the mixture we call the English. For many centuries this country was known simply as England.

It had a strong army and Navy. It waged numerous

colonial wars. England, once “the workshop of the world”, was the first to become a highly developed industrial country.

✧ Vocabulary ✧

comprise	包括, 由……组成
coastline	海岸线, 海岸地形
mainland	大陆
to be referred to	认称为, 被认为
consist of	包括
bay	海湾
harbour	港口
subdivide into	再细分, 再分
influence	影响
current	洋流, 潮流
wash the shores	冲刷海岸
latitude	纬度
to be notorious for	闻名, 著称
contribute to the trouble	造成麻烦
smog	烟雾(尤指大城市上空的污浊浓雾)
pass a law	通过一个法律
pollution	污染
damp	湿气; 潮湿的
mist	薄雾
afflict	影响

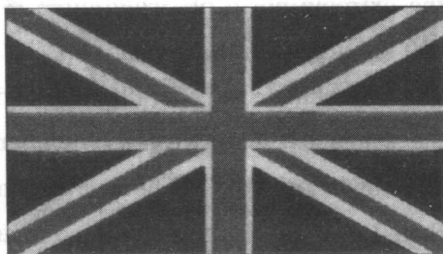
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rich in mineral resources	在矿藏资源方面富足
farming	农业
produce	生产
developed industrial country	发达的工业国
producer	生产者
exporter	出口者
machinery	机械
aircraft and navigation equipment	航空和航海设备
flora	植物
fauna	动物
conquer	征服
subdue an independent tribe	征服一个独立部落
invader	入侵者
contribute to	有助于, 有益于
Navy	海军
wage numerous colonial war	发动许多殖民战争
the workshop of the world	世界工厂

✽ Exercises ✽

1. What parts does the United Kingdom include?
2. What separates Great Britain from the mainland in the south?
3. What separates Great Britain from France?
4. Describe the geographical position of England.
5. What are the most important isles?
6. What are the famous British ports?

7. What main regions is the island of Great Britain subdivided into?
8. What is the most important River in Great Britain?
9. Are there much fine and beautiful days in Great Britain?
10. What was smog?
11. What compulsory measures were taken to get rid of smog?
12. What goods are produced in the UK?
13. What tribes and peoples was Great Britain conquered by?
14. Compare the climate of Great Britain with china.
15. Say if the UK is an unusual country. Give your reasons.



Physical Features

Britain constitutes the greater part of the British Isles. The largest of the islands is Great Britain. The next largest comprises *Northern Ireland*(北爱尔兰) and the *Irish Republic*(爱尔兰共和国). Western Scotland is gringed by the large archipelago known as the *Hebrides*(赫布里底斯群岛) and to the north-east of the Scottish mainland are the *Orkney*(奥克尼群岛) and the *Shetland*(设得兰群岛). All these have administrative ties with the mainland, but the Isle of Man, in *the Irish Sea*(爱尔兰海), and the Channel Islands, between Great Britain and France, are largely self-governing and are not part of the United Kingdom.

With an area of some 228,400 *sq. km* (平方公里), Great Britain is just under 1,000 from the south coast to the extreme north of *Scotland*(苏格兰), and just under 500 km across in the widest part.

The climate is generally mild and temperate. Prevailing winds are south-westerly; temperature is rarely above 32°C or below -10°C. The average annual rainfall is more than 1,600mm in the mountainous areas of the west and

north, but less than 800 mm over central and eastern parts. Rain is fairly well distributed throughout the year, but, on average, March to June are the driest months and September to January the wettest. During May, June and July — the months of longest daylight — the mean daily duration of sunshine varies from five hours in northern Scotland to eight hours in *the Isle of Wight* (怀特岛); during the months of shortest daylight — November, December and January — sunshine is at a minimum, with an average of an hour a day in northern Scotland and two hours a day on the south coast of England.

✧ Vocabulary ✧

constitute	构成
archipelago	群岛
self-governing	自治
mild	和善的, 温柔的
temperate	温和
prevailing winds	常刮的风
annual rainfall	年降雨量
mountainous area	山区
on average	一般说来, 平均
the mean daily duration	平均日照长度
at a minimum	最低程度, 最小量