

Reading extract and questions:

Year 2

The United Kingdom.

Set A/B

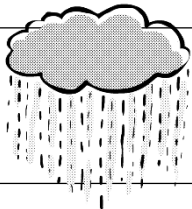
Introduction

The UK is where we live. UK is short for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

It is made up of **four** countries – **England**, **Northern Ireland**, **Scotland** and **Wales**. Each one has its own capital city – **London** for England, **Belfast** for Northern Ireland, **Edinburgh** for Scotland and **Cardiff** for Wales.

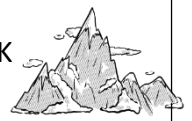
Northern Ireland

This is the only country which is not on the mainland of Great Britain. It is part of the island of Ireland. Northern Ireland has lots of stunning countryside. It also has the largest lake in the UK called Lough Neagh. Cloud-carrying winds from the Atlantic Ocean mean it is often wet and overcast there.



Scotland

The country in the north of the UK is Scotland. A large part of it is covered with towering mountains, which is why it is often called the Highlands. The weather tends to be colder than the rest of the UK and they get the most snow there in the winter months.



North

East

West

South

Wales

Wales is a green, hilly country on the western side of Great Britain. The highest mountains are in the north, the tallest of which is Mount Snowdon. Lots of people visit Wales to go mountain climbing. Although people in Wales mainly speak English, Wales actually has two main languages. **Welsh** is spoken by over half a million of the three million people who live there. Visitors will notice that road signs are usually written in both languages.



England

England is the largest of the four countries that make up the United Kingdom. It tends to be warmer and drier than the rest of the UK, especially towards the south and east. It is mainly covered with lowlands and gently rolling hills. More people live in England than any other country in the UK. The longest river in England is the River Thames. It is 215 miles long.

Seas and oceans

The UK is surrounded by water. The Irish Sea is in between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. The English Channel (to the south) lets us travel to France and the North Sea is to the east between Scotland and England. A lot of Scotland's coast is attacked by the ferocious waves of the Atlantic Ocean.

Questions for *The United Kingdom* Set A

Vocabulary:

1. *Each one has its own capital city ...* In this sentence, *capital* means ... **Tick one.**

tall

☐

main

☐

old

☐

rich

☐

2. Look at the **Scotland** fact box. **Find** and **copy** a word that means *high*.

3. *Northern Ireland has lots of stunning countryside ...* In this sentence, *stunning* means ... **Tick one.**

windy

☐

trees

☐

beautiful

☐

green

☐

Identify key aspects

4. What is UK short for?

5. Draw **four** lines to match the country to its capital.

England

Edinburgh

Northern Ireland

London

Scotland

Cardiff

Wales

Belfast

6. Where in the UK is Scotland?

Inference

7. Why are road signs in Wales written in two different ways?

8. What makes you think that the Atlantic Ocean is rough and stormy?

Sequence

9. Number the sections from **1** to **4** to show the order in which they appear. The first has been done for you.

Seas and oceans	
Introduction	
Title	1
Scotland	

Predict

10. From what you have read, what would be most useful to take on a visit to Northern Ireland? **Tick one.**

road signs

☐

thermometer

☐

sunglasses

☐

umbrella

☐

Questions for *The United Kingdom* Set B

Vocabulary:

1. Look at the **Northern Ireland** section. **Find** and **copy** a word that means *the bigger area of land*.

2. ... *it is often wet and overcast there*. In this sentence *overcast* means... **Tick one**.

hot and sunny

☐

grey and cloudy

☐

cold and frosty

☐

windy

☐

3. *The UK is surrounded by water*. In this sentence, *surrounded* means ... **Tick one**.

there is water all around it

☐

there are a lot of rivers

☐

there is hardly any water

☐

you cannot see any water

☐

Identify key aspects

4. Name two of the countries that make up the UK.

a. _____ b. _____

5. What is the name of the largest lake in the UK?

6. Which is the largest of the four countries that make up the UK?

7. Which Sea is between Northern Ireland and Great Britain?

Inference

8. ... *the days are longer in summer* ... This means the days ... **Tick one**.

are boring

☐

have more daylight

☐

are wetter

☐

have more than 24 hours

☐

9. What are the two main languages of Wales?

a. _____ b. _____

Predict

10. Which of these do you think someone is likely to say after visiting **every** country of the UK. **Tick one.**

"It's very flat."

☐

"It's interesting how every country is a little bit different."

☐

"The weather is always lovely and warm."

☐

"It helps that every country is on the same piece of land."

☐

Answers for *The United Kingdom*

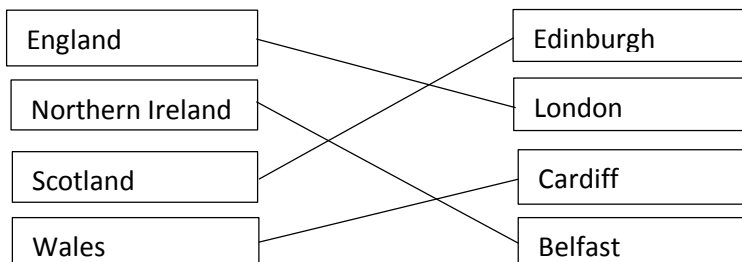
Set A:

Vocabulary:

1. main
2. towering
3. beautiful

Retrieval:

4. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- 5.



6. in the north (of the UK)

Inference:

7. because Wales has two main languages
8. It says: (A lot of) Scotland's coast is attacked by the ferocious waves of the Atlantic Ocean.

Sequence:

9.

Seas and oceans	4
Introduction	2
Title	1
Scotland	3

Predict:

10. umbrella

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Answers for *The United Kingdom*

Set B:

Vocabulary:

1. mainland
2. grey and cloudy
3. there is water all around it

Retrieval:

4. Any two from: England/Northern Ireland/Scotland/Wales
5. Lough Neagh
6. England
7. The Irish Sea

Inference:

8. have more daylight
9. English and Welsh

Predict:

10.

"It's very flat."

☐

"It's interesting how every country is a little bit different."

☒

"The weather is always lovely and warm."

☐

"It helps that every country is on the same piece of land."

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