# 19 - Great Britain and the English language

The UK is **placed** between North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. It is consisted of two large islands, Great Britain and partly Ireland and several small ones. It is For example The Isle of Man or The Shetlands.

GB has about **58** **millions** **inhabitants**. It has one of the **highest** **densities** in the World. It is more then 200 inhabitants per sq. Km. The most spoken language in GB is English but there are also some minority languages such us Welsh or Irish.

Kingdom is divided into 4 parts: **England** (London), **Wales** (Cardiff), **Scotland** (Edinburg) and **Northern** **Ireland** (Belfast).

## Landscape

There is **Highland of Scotland** with the highest mountain **Ben** **Nevis** – 1342m. From other mountains I can mention **the** **Cambrians** in **Wales**, **the** **Pennies** or **Cheviot** **Hills** on the border between England and Scotland. The longest rivers are **the** **Severn** and **the** **Thames**. There is a **mild** **climate** in GB.

## History

Britain gets its name after one Celtic **tribe** called **Brythons**. England was added to the **Roman** **Empire**. Later, Romans built **The** **Hadrian’s** **Wall** as protection against Celtic tribes.

Since 4th century, **Christianity** was brought to Britain. Trade in GB was great.

When **Roman** **legions** **left**, Jutes, Angles and Saxons arrived from **Germanic** lands. In the 11th century, Danish king made Britain **part of his Scandinavian Empire**.

The last **successful** **invasion** was accomplished by French speaking Normans led by **William** **Duke** of Normandy, who became **William** **the** **Conqueror** after defeating the Saxon King Harold in the battle of **Hastings** in 1066.

Another interesting date in GB history is **1338**, when **Hundred** **Years** **War** started (1453 end), England was defeated.

There was also long civil war called **War** **of** **the** **Roses**. It was war between **House of Lancaster** whose emblem was a white rose and the **House of York** whose emblem was a red rose. This war ended with victory of Tudor House.

King Henry VIII **separated** the **Church** of England from **Pope** in 1543

**Scotland** was **united** with **England**. But there were some problems between the Parliament and the Stuart kings and that led to a **Civil** **War**. Finally **Oliver** **Cromwell**, the puritan Army leader established a republic.

There was the **Industrial** **revolution** (1760 – 1850) In that time 13 North American **colonies** were **lost**, but GB get **some** **new** in Canada and India. Till Word War I and II, GB was **world** **leading** **state**. It has biggest power, strongest economy. But after Word Wars, GB has some economic loses and **USA become world leading power**.

## Politic

GB is a **constitutional** **monarchy** with the Queen as the head of state. **The executive** power has Prime Minister (Gordon Brown). GB has the **oldest** **parliament** in the world. The House of Parliament is called the **House** of **Lords** and the **House** of **Commons**

## Materials

GB has the richest **coal** **deposited** of the world. They also have a lot of **oil** and **earth** **gas**, **tin** (cín), **lead** (olovo) or **limestone** (vápenec).

## Industry

GB is one of biggest producer of **steel** (ocel). British **aircraft industry** is second world biggest. Their planes such us **Spitfire** or **Hurricane** were famous during **World War II**. GB is also big **shipbuilder**. Other industries in GB are **electrical** **industry** or **textile** industry. **Agriculture** in GB is famous for **cattle** and **sheep**-breeding. They also produce **grain** (zrní), **sugar** beet (cukrová řepa), **potatoes**, **vegetables** and so on but they don’t have a lot of these, so they have to **import** it.

As I said before, British aircraft transport is one of the best in Europe. There are two main airways corporation but there are also a lot of private ones. Lot of people also works in **sea** **transport** because GB is 3th in sea transport. **1, 5 million people work in land transport**.

## Other shits

There are famous schools such us **Eton**, **Harrow**, **Oxford**, and **Cambridge**.

GB is very involved in **sport**. Many sports were **invented** or **perfected** in GB. For example: football, rugby, cricket, gold or hockey. There are also some famous championships such us **Wimbledon** which is championship in tennis.

GB is word-power in **literature**. Some famous books are for example **Canterbury** **Tales** from Geoffrey Chaucer or **Robinson** **Crusoe** from Daniel Defoe. Our writer Karel Čapek wrote a book about GB called **Anglické listy**.

Something from GB **art**. **William Hogarth** was great portraitist. GB is famous for its **water-color paintings**. We have some paintings in our galleries in CR from artist Hamilton who is from Scotland.