

# Bright Lights, Big City

## The United Kingdom

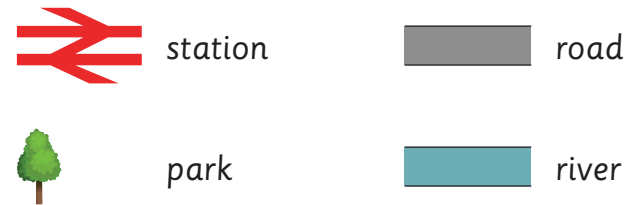
The United Kingdom is a union of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their capital cities are London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.



## Maps

A map is a picture that shows an area of land or sea. When using a map, we use words such as in front of and behind to describe where something is and words such as left and right to explain how to get somewhere.

Maps use symbols to show where things are like stations, parks, roads and rivers.



## London

London is a large urban settlement. It is the largest city in the United Kingdom. Almost nine million people live there. The River Thames flows through it. Here are some famous London landmarks.



Houses of Parliament



Tower Bridge



Royal Albert Hall



London Eye

## HM Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II is the current monarch of the United Kingdom. She was born in 1926 and became Queen in 1952. The Queen is famous across the world.



The Queen lives at Buckingham Palace.

## The Great Fire of London

The Great Fire of London was a significant event in London's history. It began in a bakery on Pudding Lane on Sunday 2nd September, 1666. Many buildings were destroyed including St Paul's cathedral. Today, a monument stands where the fire began.



Monument to the Great Fire of London



## Geography of the UK

There are many geographical features in the UK. Some features are human and some are physical.

### Human features

Human features are things that are man-made and include schools, landmarks, monuments, airports, shops, houses, hospitals, parks, towns, villages and roads.



school



church

### Physical features

Physical features are things that occur naturally and include rivers, trees, hills, mountains and coastline.



hills



coastline

## Town and countryside

The United Kingdom is made up of towns, cities and villages. Life in a city can be very different from life in a small village in the countryside.

### Life in a city

A city is a large urban settlement with lots of traffic and tall buildings. There are many shops and restaurants to visit there.



City of London

### Life in the countryside

The countryside is a rural area outside of a town or city. Less people live and work in the countryside than in a city.



Village of Corton Denham in Somerset

## Glossary

**capital city** A city that is home to the government and ruler of a country.

**city** A large town, often with a cathedral.

**country** A large area of land that has its own government.

**countryside** An area of land with fields, villages and farms.

**landmark** An important building or place.

**queen** A female ruler of a kingdom.

**rural** A rural area or the countryside is an area that is located outside towns and cities.

**urban** An area of land or human settlement where lots of people live and work.

**village** A small group of houses and buildings that is usually in the countryside.