

## What do we know about the UK?

In this unit, children will develop their knowledge about the UK. Children will use their prior knowledge to name and locate the countries and capital cities of the UK. They will learn how it is organised into countries, counties, and cities and use the 8 compass points to describe the location of each. They will identify the human and physical features of the United Kingdom such as population, tallest mountains, longest rivers, seas, and coastlines. Children will learn how the UK has changed over time in terms of population and land use.

### In this unit children will:

- Name and locate the 7 continents.
- Locate the UK on a map and specifically Hull.
- Label the countries and capital cities of the UK and use the 8 compass points to identify describe the location of each.
- Using a map find and name the surrounding seas of the UK.
- Identify the region and county we live in and what they both mean.
- Explain what a county is and find their local county on a map.
- Pinpoint key topographical features.
- Use maps, aerial photographs, and atlases to name rivers in the UK.
- Find and name areas of higher ground on a map of the UK.
- Describe how the UK population has changed over time.
- Explain how the UK has changed over time in terms of land use.

### Prior Learning

**Year 1** Continents and Oceans

**Year 2** Local Area

### Cross Curricular Links

**History** The Stone Age to the Iron Age

### Key Vocabulary

**Atlas** - book of maps

**Capital city** - the city where the government sits. London is the capital city of England and the UK.

**City** - a large town. London is a city.

**Coasts** - an area of land that is next to the sea.

**Compass points** - any of the main points of a compass: north, south, east, west, north-east, north-west, south-east, south-west.

**Continent** - a very large area of land that consists of many countries. Europe is a continent.

**Country** - an area of land that is controlled by its own government.

**County** – is a region of a place which has its own local government.

**population** - all the people who live in a country or area.

**Settlement** – a place where people live.

**Human features** - features of land that have been impacted by human activity.

**Mountain** – a large landform that rises above the surrounding land in a limited area.

**Physical features** - natural features of land

**Region** – an area of land that has common features

**River** – a large natural stream of water that flows in a channel to the sea, lake or another river.

## Key Knowledge

- There are four countries in the United Kingdom (UK): England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
- Great Britain (GB) is made up of Scotland, England, and Wales.
- The UK seas are the Irish Sea, North Sea, Atlantic Ocean, and the English Channel.
- There are 9 regions in England. The region we live in is Yorkshire and the Humber.
- There are 48 counties in England, and we live in the East Riding of Yorkshire.
- Main rivers in the UK are the River Severn, River Thames, River Trent, River Tyne, River Tweed, River Mersey, River Douglas, River Humber, and River Ouse.
- The longest river in the UK is the River Severn, just 220 miles in length. It begins in Wales and enters the Atlantic Ocean near Bristol in England.
- Other major rivers include the Thames, which flows through Oxford and London.
- Although many maps record it as the River Humber, the Humber is actually a tidal estuary formed by the River Trent and the River Ouse joining together. It is on the east coast of northern England and flows into the North Sea.
- Rivers near our local area are the River Hull, River Trent, River Ouse, and the River Derwent.
- Largest Mountains in the UK;
  - Ben Nevis in Scotland (1,345m)
  - Snowdon in Wales (1,085m)
  - Scafell Pike in England (978m)
  - Slieve Donard in Northern Ireland (850m)
- Mountain ranges of the UK:
  - Grampians in Scotland
  - Cumbrian
  - Lake District in England
  - Sperrin Mountains in Northern Ireland



| Year | Population of UK | Population in London | Population of Hull |
|------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2020 | 67.8 million     | 9.3 million          | 320,825            |
| 2000 | 58.79 million    | 7.1 million          | 302,000            |
| 1980 | 56.28 million    | 6.7 million          | 327,000            |
| 1950 | 50.6 million     | 8.1 million          | 356,138            |

- Reasons population has increased and decrease: war, illness, immigration, increased life expectancy, low birth rates, and modern health care and medicines.
- Settlements can change due to natural disasters, new buildings, transport links, a large employer closing or opening and war.

## Key Questions

- What is the difference between the UK and Great Britain?
- What are the capital cities of the UK and can you describe their location using compass points?
- What is our local county?
- What is the largest mountain in the UK?
- Can you locate the largest river in the UK?
- Name reasons that the population in the UK has risen?
- What issues have/could decrease the UK population?