

The Places In The Book



Welcome To England

England is only a small country: about 640 kilometres from north to south, and 480 kilometres across its widest part. But some of the world's greatest writers are from England, and many of the most popular sports started there. In England, you can find busy, exciting cities, some of the oldest buildings in the world and also beautiful countryside. English society¹ today is modern with people from lots of different countries and cultures, but the country also has an amazing and long history. And, of course, its language is one of the most widely spoken in the world.

Between the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea, England is part of the island of Great Britain, with Scotland to the north and Wales to the west. The country has forty-five counties – areas that often have their own council to lead them. England is not a big country, but some areas are very different from others. People in different parts of the country talk differently too!

England has a monarchy – it is ruled by a king or queen – but it also has an elected parliament², chosen by the people. The government is led³ by the prime minister. Over fifty million people live in England. That is a lot of people for such a small country!



Here are some important facts about England.

Population: 52,234,000 (2010)

Capital city: London

Biggest cities: London, Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester and Nottingham

Highest mountain: Scafell Pike, Lake District, 978 m

- People often incorrectly use the name England when they want to talk about Great Britain or the United Kingdom (UK).
- Great Britain is England, Scotland and Wales.
- The United Kingdom is England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Its full name is The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- The British Isles are England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and over 6,000 smaller islands.