



**Otázka:** Great Britain

**Jazyk:** Angličtina

**Přidal(a):** Vojtěch

## 1) GEOGRAPHY

Britain lies in the north-west coast of Europe across the English Channel, the Strait of Dover and the North Sea. It consist **of two large island** – **Great Britain and Ireland**, and about **5 000** smaller ones (e.g. the Isle of Wight, the Isles of Scilly, the Isle of man, Anglesey, the Hebrides, the Orkneys, the Shetlands and the Channel Islands).

England is mostly **rolling land**, rising to the Uplands of southern Scotland. The main mountain regions here are the **Cornish Heights**, the **Cambrians**, the **Cumbrian Mountains**, the **Pennines** and the **Cheviot Hills** (are on the border **between** England and Scotland). The Highlands of Scotland are the highest mountains in Britain – with the highest mountain **Ben Nevis** 1342 m.

The longest rivers are the **Severn** (354 km) and the **Thames** (336 km). Another river is **Avon**. There are beautiful lake areas in Cumbria and the Highlands of Scotland.

British Isles have **milder climatic due** to the **Gulf Stream** which comes from the Gulf of Mexico.



## 2) PEOPLE

The population is about **60 million** people. In Britain we can find the following ethnic groups: **English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh**, Ulster, Indian, Pakistan and other (Jews, Italian, Chinese, Caribbeans).

The **majority** of people speak **English**. There are **minority** languages which are of Celtic origin – **Welsh, Scottish and Irish Gaelic**.

## 3) GOVERNMENT TYPE AND ADMINISTRATION

Great Britain is a **constitutional monarchy** with the **Queen** as the head of state. But the political power is in the hands of **Prime Minister** (David Cameron). Britain is **divided** into **four parts**: **England** (London), **Wales** (Cardiff), **Scotland** (Edinburgh) and **Northern Ireland** (Belfast). Each country has got own symbol. England has a **Red rose**, Wales has a **Daffodil** and **Leek**, Scotland has a **Whistle** and Northern Ireland has a **Shamrock**.

Locally is Britain divided into counties. The capital of the whole Britain is **London**. Other big cities are Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, Bradford and Bristol. Britain is the member of nearly all important international organizations.

The currency is one pound. The anthem is "God save the Queen." British national flag (sometimes is called "Union Jack") consists of three crosses (white, red and blue). England has **St George's** cross (red cross), Scotland has **St Andrew's** cross (white cross) and Wales has **St Patrick's** cross (red cross).

## 4) INTERESTING PLACE



## England

There are many fascinating places. **Oxford and Cambridge** are the old university towns. **Stratford upon Avon** is the birthplace of William Shakespeare. Fine **sandy beaches** and a nice atmosphere have Brighton, Blackpool, Scarborough. **Cantebury** is an ancient city with majestic cathedral.

**Winchester** – once it was the capital of England. In **Salisbury Plain** we can see a beautiful historic monument of **Stonehenge** with giant stone circles which are more than 3000 years old. **Birmingham** is the geographical heart of England and is the second largest city in Britain. **Liverpool** is a birth place of Beatles.

## Wales

Is sometimes called **the land of castles**. The land is full **mystery and beauty**. There are snow-capped mountains, green valleys, sea resorts and big cities (Cardiff, Newport)

## Scotland

Is a historically and culturally **separate** country from England. It has **own legal and education** system. Scotland is the land of many **special traditions** which cannot be found elsewhere in the world – **playing the pipes, quality tweeds, woolen knitwear, wearing kilts** made of tartan and **Scotch whisky**.

The biggest city is **Glasgow** – the cultural centre. Edinburgh is dominated by imposing 12<sup>th</sup> century castle – **Holyroodhouse**. The north of the country is a large lake and mountains area. The biggest lake is **Loch Lomond** and **Loch Ness** (is famous for “Loch Ness Monster”).