

UK countries and Capital cities - Key Learning

We will learn how to name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas. We will know the:

key **physical** features, including: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, valley, vegetation.

key **human** features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop. We will learn how to use a range of maps and globes. We will locate land and sea on maps. We will learn about landmarks and symbols on maps. We will be able to use simple compass directions – NSEW.

Key Questions	Key Vocabulary
What are the four countries of the UK?	Country – an area of land with boundaries which fits within a continent
What are the capital cities of these four countries?	United Kingdom – made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
What is meant by the term capital city?	Capital city – a city in which the government is found
What are the seas that surround the UK called?	Physical feature – belonging to the earth and found naturally, like rivers, streams, mountains etc.
What are the characteristics of the four countries of the UK?	Human feature – has been created by people and how this affects the environment
What are the characteristics of the four capital cities?	Landmark – an object that is seen and recognised in a town, city etc
Where do you live? What county do you live in?	Compass directions – a compass will show you which way to go e.g. North, South, East and West



What will we be learning about in this topic?

Use the starting point of Kirkham, Lancashire, North West then England

- What questions would I like to ask about the United Kingdom, its cities and seas?
- What countries in the world can I name? Do I have links with any other countries? Have I lived in, or visited other countries?
- Play games that involve 'flying north to Scotland', 'travelling south to London', 'climbing a mountain in Wales,' or 'swimming across the Irish Sea to Belfast etc.
- Use maps to discuss the shape and outline of the UK. Identify land, sea, coast, islands etc. Locate the United Kingdom on a globe.
- Label wall maps of the UK to show the location of the countries, cities and seas. Bring in photographs or postcards from these places.
- Research countries' identifying characteristics such as flags, national anthems, languages spoken, currency, stamps, Patron Saint days, mountains, rivers, sports, music, traditional foods.
- Research some identifying characteristics of the capital cities such as the main buildings, tourist attractions, rivers, motorways, airports, and rail links (including underground.)
- Use programmable toys to move around a floor map of the United Kingdom following simple directional instructions.

United Kingdom

