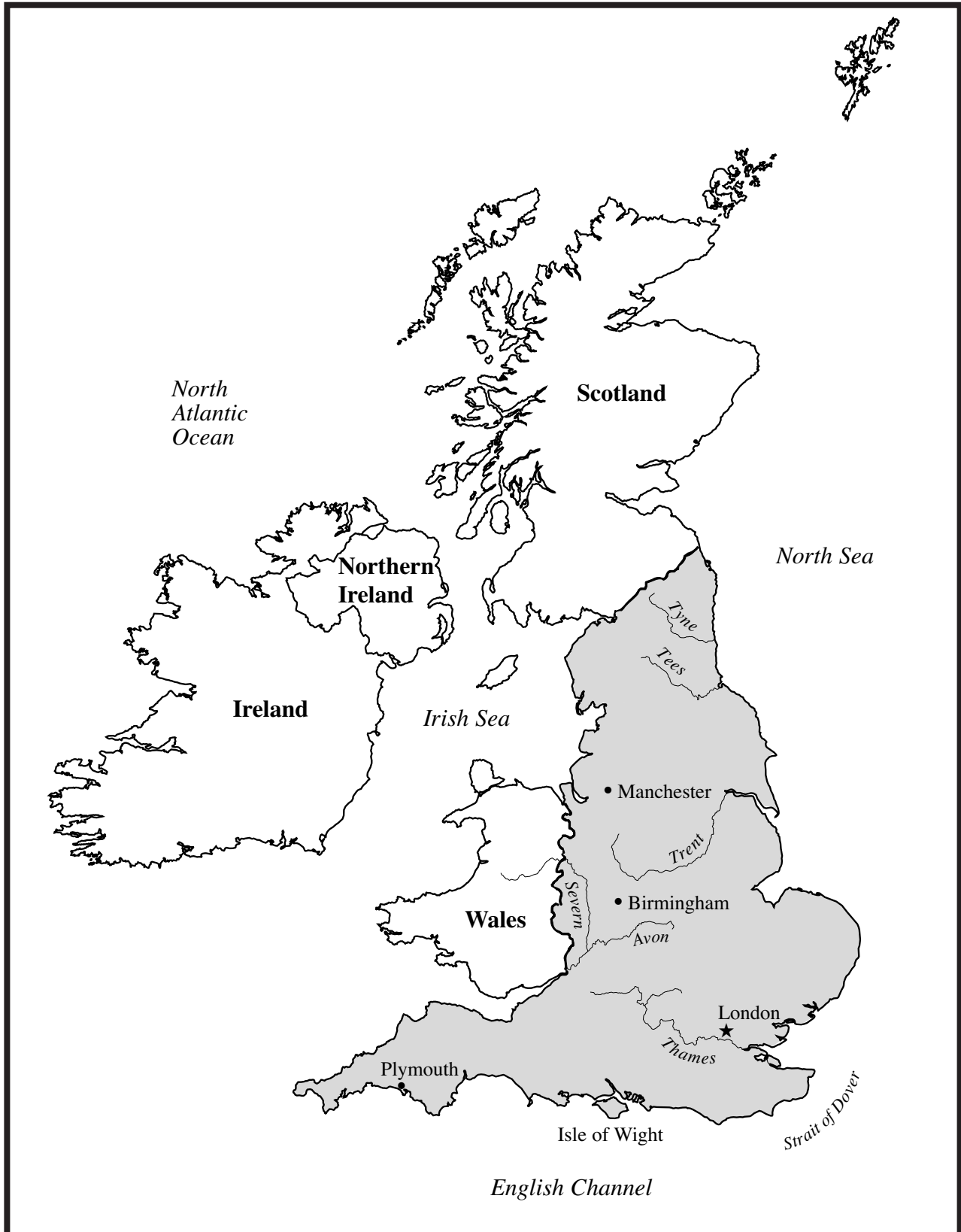


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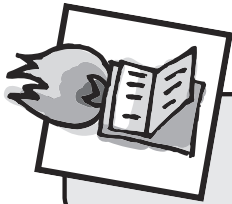
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England



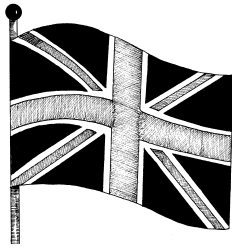
Welcome to England!

For many centuries England has been one of the most influential and important countries of Europe. In spite of its relatively small size, England has produced many hardy explorers. These adventurers helped to create the world's largest empire, which stretched into many parts of the world. At home, English workers built the first industrial communities in Europe. England joins the smaller countries of Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland to form the United Kingdom of Great Britain.



FAST FACTS

Official Name:	England
Location:	Off the coast of Western Europe (northwest of France), between the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea; England is an island that includes roughly one-sixth of north Ireland's land.
Population:	61,113,205 (2010 estimate)
Capital City:	London
Area:	50,400 square miles; England is a little smaller than the state of Alabama.
Major Language:	English. Many regions have their own dialects, which are frequently used to identify a person's background and social class.
Major Religion:	Christianity: 71.6 %; though all religions are accepted, the Protestant Church of England has been the country's official religion since the 1500s.
Currency:	The English unit of currency is the pound sterling (£), with 100 pence in one pound. Coins are minted in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 pence and 1 pound pieces. Paper currency is printed in 5, 10, 20, and 50 pound notes, which are designed in different sizes and colors and etched with portraits of the queen or other famous historic figures. A pound is often called a "quid" in everyday conversation, much as the U.S. dollar is called a "buck." People often refer to their pound notes, such as tens or fives, as "tenners" or "fivers." The British pound is worth, on average, between 1.5 and 2 U.S. dollars.
Climate:	Temperate, due to warm ocean currents and winds; more than half of the year's days are overcast.
The Land:	England is characterized by rugged hills and low mountains, with flat and rolling plains in the east and southeast.
Government:	A constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary government; Parliament consists of two chambers: the House of Lords and House of Commons.

Flag:

The Union flag, which combines the red cross of England's St. George, the Scottish diagonal blue and white cross of St. Andrew, and the Irish red diagonal cross of St. Patrick; when flown on an English ship it is often called the "Union Jack."

Royal Banner: The banner contains the royal arms of England, three golden lions arranged vertically. The lions have blue tongues and claws, and are set against a deep red background.

National Flower: Rose

Motto: "God and my right"

Natural Environment

England, one of the smallest countries of Europe, was once part of the mainland. At the end of the last Ice Age, temperatures warmed and ice began to melt. This caused flooding, which covered the shallow shelf that is now the North Sea to the east and the English Channel to the south. England, Scotland, and Wales became an island with a jagged coastline. No part of England is more than 70 miles from the coast. The Isle of Wight near the southern coast is the most important English offshore island. A strait called the Solent separates the island from the mainland.

The Strait of Dover became the scene of a historic rescue mission during World War II. Over 350,000 Allied soldiers were trapped in Dunkirk, a city on the French coast opposite Dover. Germany staged a massive air strike on the unprotected troops. The English, using all sorts of crafts—yachts, cruisers, row boats, destroyers, and gunboats—rushed to Dunkirk to evacuate the soldiers. Most of the troops were saved by the operation, which lasted three days and was later called "one of the best-ordered military movements in history."

England's lowland area covers the central, southern, and eastern parts of the country. Much of the soil has generous amounts of limestone and chalk. This chalk forms the famous White Cliffs of Dover. The western coast of the country extends to the tip of Cornwall and Land's End.

Much of the fertile land is used for farming and yields wheat, barley, oats, beets, and potato crops. The highland area includes the hills along the Welsh border, the Pennine mountain range to the north, and the beautiful "Lake District," which inspired the work of many poets and authors, such as William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Lake Windermere is the largest of the 16 lakes.

Industrial cities have developed near large coal and iron ore mines. England's rivers are the main industrial shipping routes that bring products to the coasts. The Thames and Severn rivers are the longest. Others are the Tyne, Tees, Avon, and Trent rivers.

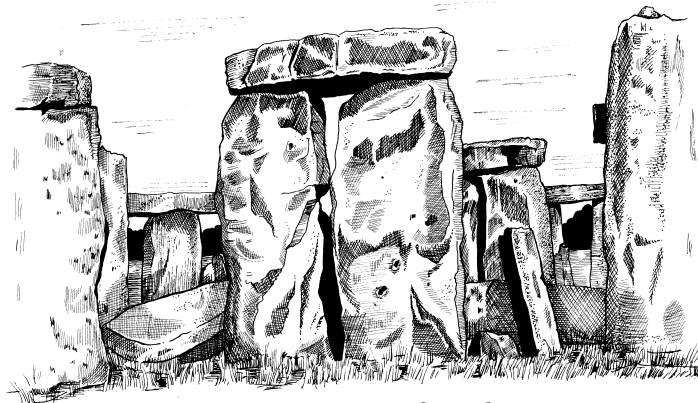
The fishing industry off the east coast brings cod, haddock, herring and mackerel to the cities. Cockles, mussels, and other small fish are also sold from barrows in the cities.

Since the 1970s, oil and gas fields in the North Sea have helped England meet its own energy needs. Some of the country's electricity has been generated by nuclear power since 1988.

The many forests and wooded areas provide habitats for deer, otters, rabbits, songbirds, and the endangered owl. Fox hunting remains a royal pursuit. Cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry are raised on the farms.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites in England

England has a long list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, which isn't surprising, given the country's long history. Stonehenge, a gathering of earthworks and standing stones that dates back thousands of years, is one such site. Other sites around the country include the Tower of London, the cities of Bath and Liverpool, and the ruins of Hadrian's Wall.



Stonehenge

In Your Classroom

Show the students a large scale map of England. Point out the mountain ranges, forests, and rivers. Ask them to compare its size and location to the United States. For example, both of them are part of a larger land mass.

Using plaster of Paris, or a mixture of flour, water, and salt, help students make a relief map of England. Have students use the map to explain the importance of rivers in English commerce. Do England's largest cities have access to major water routes?

Ask students to research "Robin Hood," who lived in Sherwood Forest. Was he real? Was the story based on truth?

Locate the "White Cliffs" of Dover. Have students discover why they are white. Listen to or sing traditional songs related to England, such as "The White Cliffs of Dover."

Show students photos of English paper money or have real currency available. Ask them to design their own paper money. What color would they use? How much would it be worth? What picture would it feature—a family name, symbol, or local landmark?

Ask students to look up the terms "moor" or "heath." Read *Hound of the Baskervilles*, by Arthur Conan Doyle, or *Jane Eyre*, by Charlotte Brontë, both of which are set on a moor, or *King Lear*, by William Shakespeare, much of which takes place on a heath.