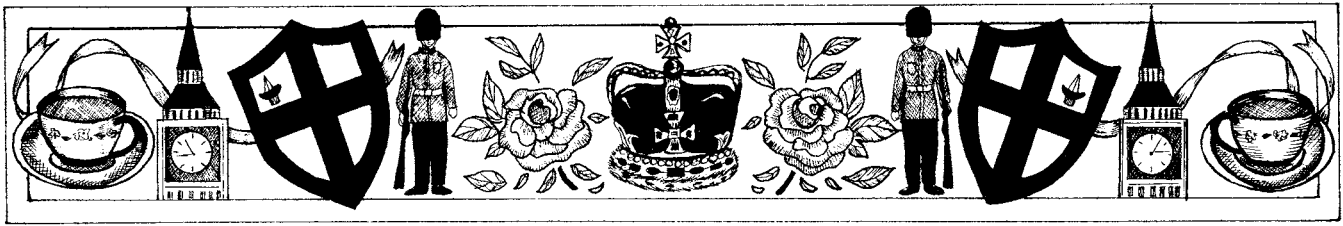


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# England



# 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.

**Official Name**—England

**Area**—50,400 square miles (130,400 square km), which is a little smaller than the state of Alabama.

**Population**—46,000,000

**Government**—a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary government. Parliament consists of two chambers: the House of Lords and House of Commons.

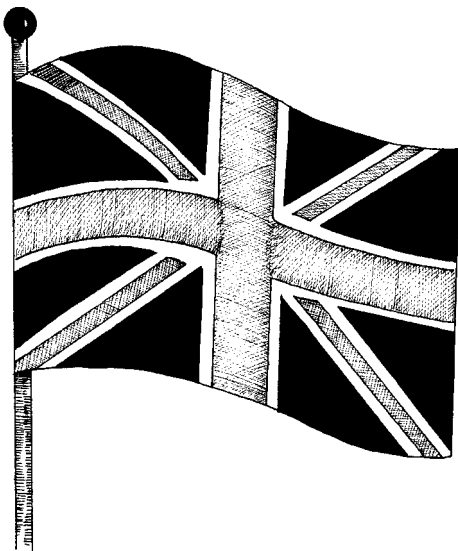
**Language**—English. Many regions have their own dialects, which are frequently used to identify a person's background and social class.

**Climate**—mild due to warm ocean currents and winds. Average high: 70°F (21°C). Annual rainfall: 20–40 inches (51–102cm).

**Elevation**—The highest peak is Scafell Pike, approximately 3200 feet (980m) above sea level.

**Flag**—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."

**Religion**—While all religions are accepted, the Protestant Church of England has been the country's official religion since the 1500s. Others include Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Hindu.



**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.



### Major Cities

*London*, the capital and largest city, was built on the site of an ancient Roman town. The city proper and its 32 boroughs cover 610 square miles (1580 square km).

*Birmingham*, the second largest city, is the center for industry such as tools, motors, and automobiles.

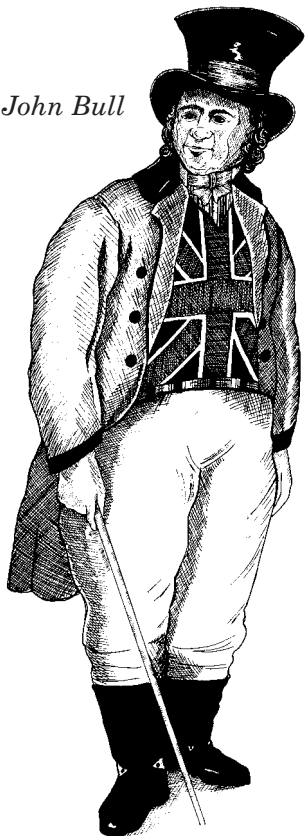
*Manchester* is the regional banking center. In Victorian times it was known for its cotton trade.

*Cambridge* is the site of Cambridge University.

*Oxford* is the site of Oxford University.

*Plymouth*, a sea port on the English Channel, was the departure point for many emigrants leaving for America and for other countries.

*John Bull*



**National Anthem**— “God Save the Queen”

**National Symbol**— “John Bull,” an imaginary person (like “Uncle Sam” in the U.S.), who represents England. He is pictured as short and fat. He wears trousers tucked into his boots and a vest that looks like the British flag.

### Physical Features

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 (113km) 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.