

to border ... many countries
to be washed ... seas
to be rich ... natural resources
to be surrounded ... water
to be covered ... forests
to be divided ... three parts

6. Speak about the geographical position of Russia.

7. Speak about the climate of Russia.

8. Speak about the climate in the country/city/town you live in.

9. Retell the text.

10. Translate into English.

1. Территория России занимает почти одну шестую часть земной поверхности.

2. В России много рек.

3. Россия граничит со многими странами.

4. Россия омывается океанами на севере и на западе.

5. Самое глубокое озеро — Байкал, которое содержит около 20 % мирового запаса пресной воды.

6. В России есть несколько горных цепей.

7. Четыре климатические зоны России — это арктическая, субарктическая, умеренная и субтропическая.

8. Россия имеет большие ресурсы нефти, природного газа и других полезных ископаемых.

9. Глава государства — президент.

10. Россия, расположенная в Восточной Европе и Северной и Центральной Азии, является самой большой страной в мире.

11. Основные реки России — Обь, Енисей и Лена — расположены в Сибири.

12. В России много плодородных земель, больших лесов, глубоких озер и рек.

13. Высшим законодательным органом России является Государственная Дума.

14. В состав Российской Федерации входят области, территории и автономные республики.

Text 2

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

To the west of the continent of Europe lie two large islands. The larger of them is called Great Britain, and the smaller, Ireland. These two and 5,500 smaller islands form the British Isles.

The island of Great Britain consists of England, Scotland and Wales. The isle of Ireland is divided into Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland form the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The UK (the United Kingdom) is the official name of the country, occasionally referred to as Great Britain, which is, strictly speaking, only a geographic name.

Great Britain is washed by the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea from the west, by the North Sea from the north and west. It is separated from the European continent by the English Channel. The narrowest part of the English Channel is called the Strait of Dover. The UK is not a very large country. Its territory is about 244,000 square kilometers, and no point of the country is more than 120 kilometers away from the sea.

At the same time, the population of the UK is the third largest in Europe, comprising about 60 million people. It is incorrect to call everybody who lives in the United Kingdom "English", as this is the name only for those who live in England. The residents of Wales are named Welsh, while the people of Scotland are called Scottish. The correct common name for English, Scottish and Welsh is British. Those who live in Northern Ireland are called Irish.

The climate of the British Isles is generally mild; it is seldom cold in winter and never too hot in summer. This is due to the warm current of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf Stream. Britain was always known as the country of fogs, but now it is not quite so because of the climatic changes: there is maybe less fog than in any other European country.

There are no high mountains and long rivers in the UK. The highest mountain is Ben Nevis in the Highlands of Scotland, and the longest rivers are the Severn and the Thames.

Geographically, the UK has a very convenient position, being located on the crossroads from Europe to America. This is one of the reasons why Britain was (and is up to the present time) one of the leading world powers. The capital of the country is London. It is situated on the river Thames.

Britain has an ancient and glorious history. It used to be the great empire "where the sun never sets". It gave the world many famous scientists, writers, political leaders and explorers, such as Newton, Darwin, Drake, Shakespeare, Churchill and others.

For centuries monarchs ruled Britain. The constitutional monarchy is still preserved in the country, though it is practically no more than a tradition and a tribute to the past. Queen Elisabeth II is Head of State. Her power is limited by the parliament, which is elected every four years. The leader of the party that has won the majority during the elections becomes the Prime Minister. In fact, he becomes the head of state and forms the Cabinet. The second largest party forms the official Opposition.

EXERCISES

11. Find in the text the English equivalents of the following word combinations and use them in the sentences of your own:

иногда называемая;	никогда не бывает слишком жарко;
строго говоря;	меньше туманов, чем;
омывается;	удобное местоположение;
отделена;	древняя и славная;
третье по величине;	раньше была;
называются;	вторая по величине

12. Answer the following questions:

1. What are the names of the islands situated to the west of the continent of Europe?
2. What parts does the island of Great Britain consist of?
3. How many parts is Ireland divided into?
4. What is the official name of Great Britain?
5. Name the seas and oceans the country is washed by.
6. How large is the territory of the UK?
7. How are the people living in the UK called?
8. Why is the climate of the British Isles moderate?
9. What is the highest mountain in the UK?
10. What are the longest and most important rivers in the UK?
11. What is the capital of the country?
12. Prove that the UK has a very convenient position.
13. Give the names of famous people of Great Britain.
14. What type of state is the UK?
15. Who rules the country in fact?
16. How often do the elections take place?

13. Say what these figures refer to in the text.

5,500; 244,000; 120; 60,000,000

14. Open the brackets and use the adjective in the corresponding degree of comparison.

1. The (*large*) island is known as Great Britain, the (*small*) is Ireland.
2. The (*high*) mountain in Scotland is Ben Nevis.
3. The (*long*) river in Great Britain is the Severn, the Thames is (*important*).
4. The arctic zone has (*cold*) climate.
5. The (*narrow*) part of the English Channel is called the Strait of Dover.
6. Among the Russian lakes (*deep*) is the Baikal.

15. Make up sentences about Russia and Great Britain using the verbs in the appropriate form.