



CHAPTER  
**13**

# United Kingdom

**1**

**HISTORY**

**Building a British Empire**

**2**

**CULTURE**

**From Shakespeare to J.K. Rowling**

**3**

**GOVERNMENT & ECONOMICS**

**Parliament and Free Enterprise**



## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

**How did being an island nation influence the development of the United Kingdom?**

**CONNECT**

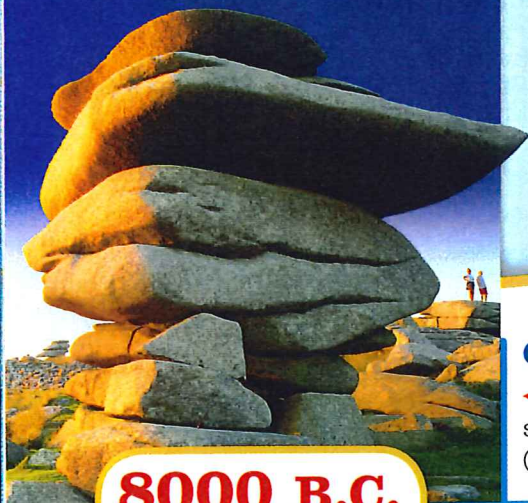


**Geography & History**



Use the map and the time line to answer the following questions.

1. What is the capital of the United Kingdom?
2. Under what body of water would a railroad tunnel between England and France run?



**8000 B.C.**

### Geography

◀ **8000 B.C.** People begin settling the British Isles. (rock formation in Cornwall)

### Government

◀ **1689** Parliament passes the English Bill of Rights.

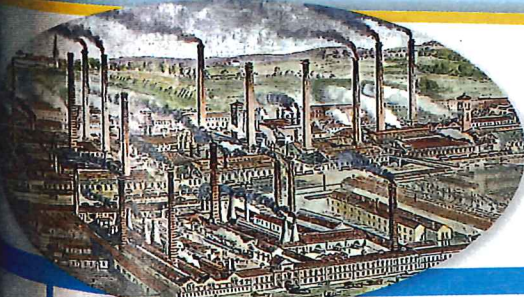
### Government

◀ **1215** King John signs the Magna Carta.



**Animated GEOGRAPHY**  
**United Kingdom**

[Click here](#) to explore the United Kingdom @ [ClassZone.com](#)



**History**

**▲ 1760s** Industrial Revolution begins in Great Britain

**Economics**

**1994** The Channel Tunnel between England and France is completed. ▶

**Geography**

**1930s** The British Commonwealth of Nations is formed.



**Today**

SECTION  
**1**

# Reading for Understanding

## ▶ Key Ideas

### BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Western Europe's industrial growth began in the United Kingdom. Its inventors caused a revolution that changed the world.

### NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Many developments, including the Industrial Revolution and a colonial empire, helped the United Kingdom grow into a major world power.

## ▶ Vocabulary

### TERMS & NAMES

**representative government** a system of government with a legislature that is at least partly elected by the people

**Magna Carta** a charter, or document, signed by England's King John in 1215 that limited the power of the monarch and guaranteed nobles basic rights

**Parliament** the national legislature of the United Kingdom

**Commonwealth of Nations** an association made up of the United Kingdom and many former British colonies

### BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

**mainland** the primary landmass of a continent or territory rather than its islands or peninsulas

### REVIEW

**imperialism** the policy where one country controls the government and economy of another country or territory

**Industrial Revolution** the shift that began in Great Britain in the 1760s from making goods by hand to making them by machine

## ▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the chart to help you identify the solutions to problems faced by the United Kingdom.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R10

### IDENTIFY PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

PROBLEMS	SOLUTIONS
Divided Territory	
Monarchy Too Powerful	
Need for Resources	



SECTION  
**1**  
HISTORY

# Building a British Empire

## Connecting to Your World

When someone asks you what country you live in, do you say America, the United States, or the U.S.? Our country has many names. So does the United Kingdom. Few use its official name, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Some say the United Kingdom. Some call it Great Britain, the name of the island shared by England, Scotland, and Wales. Others just use Britain. Its different names reflect its history.



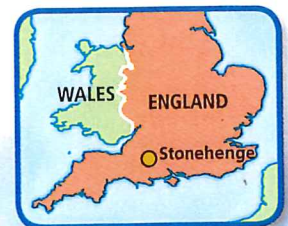
**Patriotic Teen** An American teenager displays one of her country's names.

## Creating a United Kingdom

**KEY QUESTION** What aspects of culture did Britain's settlers influence?

Different groups settled the British Isles over time. The Celts, the Romans, Germanic tribes called the Angles and the Saxons, and the Normans from France all inhabited the region. Each contributed to British culture. They shaped its language, government, and customs. By the late 1200s, English kings wanted to bring the British Isles under their control. They conquered Wales and much of Ireland. In 1707, England, Wales, and Scotland united as the Kingdom of Great Britain. Ireland became part of the union in 1801, creating the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Ireland split into two parts in 1949, and Northern Ireland stayed in the union.

**Stonehenge** Early settlers of the British Isles built Stonehenge between about 3100 and 1500 B.C.



Although the United Kingdom is a small island group, it has had an influence on world affairs far greater than its size would suggest. At the height of its power, its colonies spanned the globe. As it became a world leader, the United Kingdom's location set it apart from nations on the European **mainland**, allowing it to create a unique identity.

▲ **SUMMARIZE** Explain the aspects of culture that Britain's early settlers influenced.

## Influencing the Modern Age

▼ **KEY QUESTION** How did British governmental and economic ideas influence the rest of the world?

British ideas and customs have had a lasting influence on the way people around the world live. The British policy of **imperialism** helped spread new developments, such as representative government and the Industrial Revolution, which still affect political and economic life.

**Representative Government** In 1215, the kingdom took steps toward **representative government**, a system in which the legislature is at least partly elected by the people. British nobles forced King John to sign the **Magna Carta**. This document outlined nobles' rights and limited the king's powers. British kings gradually acknowledged that they needed the people's support to govern. A group of representatives called **Parliament** was established. Some call King Edward's 1295 Parliament a "model parliament" because it was more representative of British society than earlier versions. Today, several other European governments, such as Greece and Hungary, also have parliaments.

In 1689, the English Bill of Rights strengthened the rights of citizens. This document outlined the relationship between the monarchy and Parliament. In doing so, it limited the power of the monarch and guaranteed basic freedoms to English citizens. It became a model for other nations, including the United States. Many countries have been influenced by British advances in representative government.

### Houses of Parliament

This building in London, finished in 1860, contains the chambers where the United Kingdom's Parliament meets. **How might the building's exterior show that an important group meets inside?**



## ANALYZING Primary Sources

**English Bill of Rights** In 1689, Parliament passed the English Bill of Rights. They presented the document to King William III and Queen Mary, who agreed to uphold it.

That the . . . suspending of laws, or the execution of laws, by regal authority, without consent of parliament, is illegal . . .

That election of members of parliament ought to be free . . .

And that for redress [remedy] of all grievances, and for the amending, strengthening, and preserving of the laws, parliaments ought to be held frequently.

Source: English Bill of Rights

### DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

How did the English Bill of Rights protect English citizens?



▲ King William III and Queen Mary with the English Bill of Rights

**The British Empire** In the 1500s, Britain joined other European nations in the race to claim overseas colonies in order to gain resources and expand trade networks. By the 1800s, Great Britain used its strong navy to control a prosperous empire. At its height, the empire covered one-fourth of the globe. British colonies included Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, India, and Pakistan, as well as parts of Africa and the Caribbean. They provided raw materials needed for industrialization and markets for British goods. As British control spread, so did its language and culture.

In the 1920s, several British colonies controlled their internal affairs, but also wanted to manage their foreign policy and defense. In response, the United Kingdom created the **Commonwealth of Nations**, an association of countries that had been part of the British empire. Original members included Australia, Canada, and South Africa. Members of the Commonwealth were independent, but agreed to cooperate in trade and political matters. The British empire still controlled many other territories.

**Commonwealth of Nations** This World War II poster shows soldiers from several Commonwealth nations, including India, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia.



**The Industrial Revolution** The **Industrial Revolution** that you read about earlier began in Great Britain in the 1760s. The country's geographic advantages helped make it the world's first industrial nation. Early on, rivers provided power to fuel machines. Rivers and harbors on the Atlantic Ocean offered ways to transport raw materials from British colonies to factories and finished goods to overseas markets. The nation also had ample supplies of coal and iron ore.

By the 1800s, the United Kingdom had become the world's leading industrial power. Although Britain tried to keep its new technology to itself, other nations sought to industrialize. British knowledge spread first to nearby Belgium and France, then to much of the world.

**ANALYZE EFFECTS** Explain how British governmental and economic ideas influenced the world.

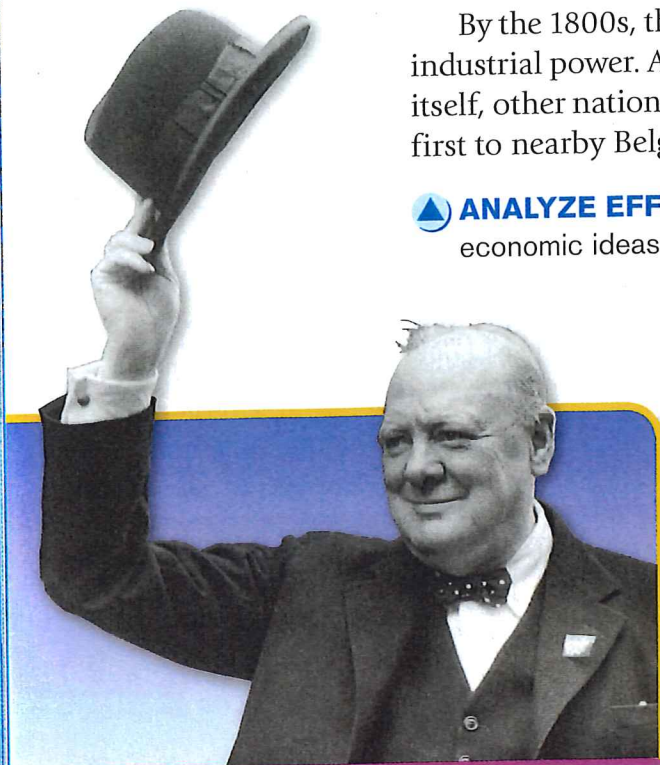
## Britain in Today's World

**KEY QUESTION** How has Great Britain's position in world politics changed?

At the beginning of the 1900s, Great Britain was a major world power. Its leaders governed a prosperous nation and a vast empire. Today, the United Kingdom is no longer the world's richest or most powerful nation. However, it remains a respected world leader.

**Fighting Two World Wars** The United Kingdom played a major role in two world wars. As you learned earlier, it served as a leader of the Allies in both struggles. The British people showed great courage. During World War II, civilians faced massive German air raids on their cities. British and Commonwealth soldiers fought bravely in Europe, North Africa, and Asia. In stirring radio addresses, Prime Minister Winston Churchill inspired confidence as the British people faced the threat of a German invasion.

The two wars had a devastating effect on the United Kingdom's economy. Bombs had destroyed large parts of London and other cities. When the war ended, Britain had huge debts. All the industry that had been devoted to the war effort had to be converted back to manufacturing consumer goods. It took the British economy years to recover fully.



## HISTORY MAKERS

### Winston Churchill 1874–1965

A brilliant speaker and enemy of Nazi Germany, Prime Minister Winston Churchill led the United Kingdom during World War II. His stirring speeches on the radio and in the British Parliament rallied the British people. As the British prepared for an expected invasion by Germany, Churchill urged them to show courage and make this "their finest hour." His confidence that democratic government would in the end win out over dictatorships inspired the United Kingdom and its allies to work hard for victory.



#### ONLINE BIOGRAPHY

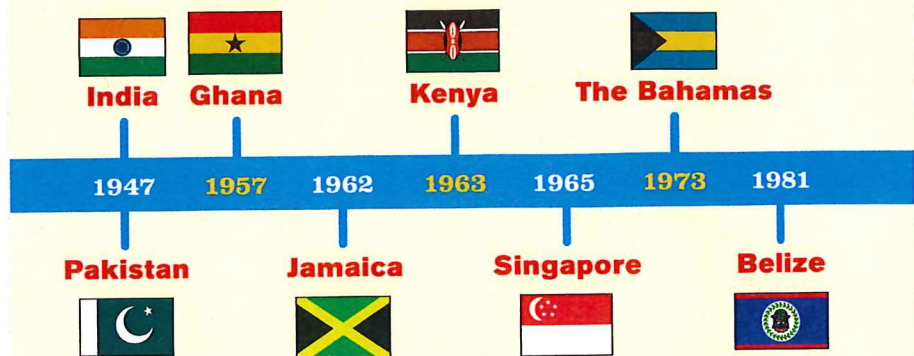
For more on the life of Winston Churchill, go to the Research & Writing Center @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)

**The End of the Empire** In the postwar period, many British colonies in Africa and Asia began demanding independence. Great Britain was struggling to recover from the war. Its leaders lacked the time or resources to maintain its colonies. Between 1947 and 1980, about 40 British colonies became independent. Almost all of them joined the Commonwealth of Nations.

Today, the United Kingdom works closely with its former colonies and with other European nations. Its ties to Commonwealth nations have strengthened its role in world affairs. The United Kingdom is also a member of the European Union. However, some British citizens think that their country should be less involved with the rest of Europe, which is a source of tension for the government.

## The Struggle for Independence

**Colonial Independence** This time line shows when some of Great Britain's many colonies achieved their independence from the empire.



**EVALUATE** Explain how Britain's role in world politics has changed.

## Section 1 Assessment

**ONLINE QUIZ**  
For test practice, go to  
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### TERMS & NAMES

#### 1. Explain the importance of

- Magna Carta
- Parliament
- Commonwealth of Nations

### USE YOUR READING NOTES

#### 2. Identify Problems and Solutions

Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

How did the United Kingdom meet its needs for more natural resources?

PROBLEMS	SOLUTIONS
Divided Territory	
Monarchy Too Powerful	
Need for Resources	

### KEY IDEAS

3. How did the creation of Parliament change the British monarchy?
4. What were the effects of Industrial Revolution on the way the British lived?
5. What benefits did the Commonwealth of Nations have for British colonies?

### CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Analyze Causes and Effects** Why did the United Kingdom have to give up its colonial empire?
7. **Make Inferences** How did the British overcome the disadvantages of being an island nation?
8. **CONNECT to Today** Why might the United Kingdom want to maintain ties with former colonies?
9. **ART Design a Memorial** Research the experiences of British soldiers or civilians during World War II. Create a design for a war memorial honoring their part in the war.



# Animated GEOGRAPHY

## Victorian London

[Click here](#) to enter Victorian London  
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### LONDON AROUND 1890

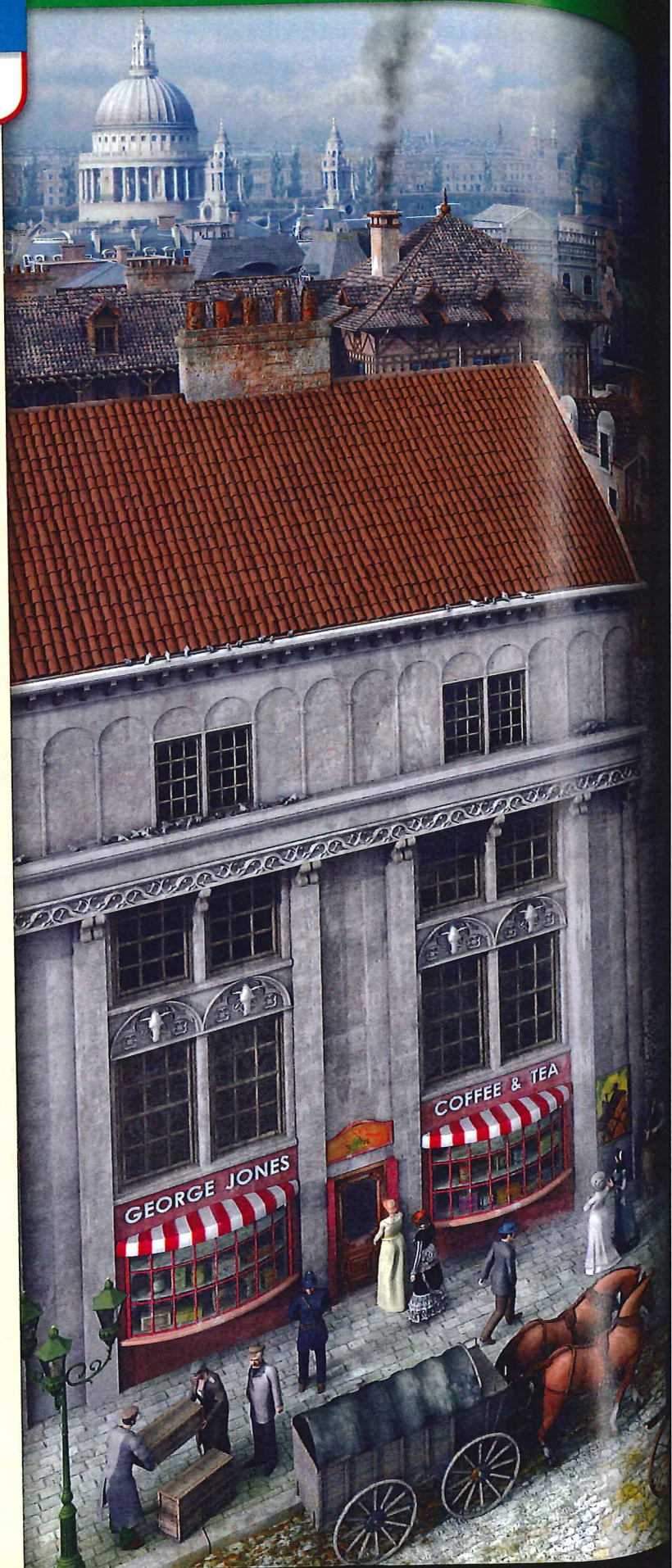
London grew rapidly during the 19th century. By 1901, over 6.5 million people lived there. All these people required services, such as transportation and law enforcement. Rapid growth also affected London society as different social classes interacted.



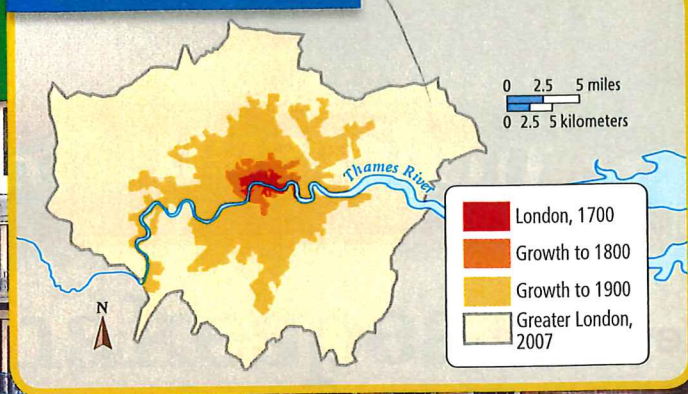
[Click here](#) to experience what daily life in Victorian London would have been like. Learn more about the different social classes that shared the city, such as the upper-class residents shown above. See some of the public services needed to keep the city running, including electricity and the London Underground.



[Click here](#) to learn more about the economic activities that might have taken place in this important commercial center. Connected to the world by the Thames River, the city attracted all types of businesses, from street stalls to major factories.



## Growth of London



## GeoActivity

### A Victorian Talk Show

Break into groups of four. One person will pretend to be someone from this London street who is appearing on a talk show. The rest of the group will interview him or her. Choose the best question and answer from your group and share it with the class.